



SIOFA | APSOI

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

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

Savoy Hotel, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026

MoP-13-05

Report and Recommendations of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

The SIOFA Secretariat on behalf of the SIOFA Scientific Committee

Meeting	Compliance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting of the Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document type	working paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information paper <input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Closed session document ² <input type="checkbox"/>
Abstract	<p>The 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11) was held in Fremantle, Australia, 23-31 March 2026. The meeting was an in-person meeting, with an online streaming (listen only) service provided for delegates that were unable to attend.</p> <p>The following paper contains the recommendations of the SC11 relevant to the MoP, including their original paragraph numbering from the SC11 report. To aid the reading of SC recommendations, square brackets were used for editorial additions and strikethrough for editorial deletions, if and where needed. Original agenda items headings are kept to provide further reference. Underline highlights recommendations that require a more substantial discussion. A list of acronyms used is provided at the bottom of the recommendations and relevant report Annexes or key documents are also included here for easier reference.</p> <p>The full meeting report was circulated and published on the meeting page of the SIOFA website on 7 April 2026, and can be found here:</p> <p>https://siofa.org/system/files/meeting_documents/11th_annual_meeting_of_the_siofa_scientific_committee_sc11/SIOFA-SC11-Report.pdf</p>

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 SIOFA Scientific Committee recommended that the Meeting of the Parties:

3. Fisheries reports

3.1.2. Guidelines for the submission of National Reports

61. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the revised Guidelines for the Submission of Annual National Reports given in SC-11-INFO-01-Rev1 and tasked the Secretariat to make the Guidelines available on the SIOFA website.

3.1.4. Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2026

71. The SC recommended that the MoP **endorse** the Overview of SIOFA Fisheries 2026 (SC-11-14-Rev2) and task the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.

75. The SC noted that CCPs were unclear 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 SC requested that the MoP **provide** clarification on the scope of the application of paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025).

3.2. Ecosystem and Fisheries Summaries 2026

79. The SC recommended that the MoP **endorse** the SIOFA Ecosystem Summary 2026 (SC-11-15-Rev2) and task the Secretariat to make a public version of it available on the SIOFA website.

4. Data Standards, Access and Dissemination

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

124. The SC recommended that the MoP **adopt** the draft amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) (Annex D).

5. SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment

5.1. SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard

136. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the Scientific Committee Checklist for SIOFA BFIA Evaluation according to the SIOFA BFIA Standard (Annex E).

6. SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM)

6.3. Development of harvest strategies

163. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that work provided in the PAM-2024-01, PAM-2024-02, and PAM-2024-03 projects provided a strong scientific basis for advancing a precautionary approach to fisheries management within SIOFA.

165. The SC recommended that the MoP **adopt** the SIOFA PAF.

167. The SC recommended that the MoP **endorse** the indicative workplan for the adoption of management procedures (Annex F); develop a detailed workplan with clear tasks, timelines, and responsibilities; and regularly update the workplan, including with input from the SC.

168. The SC requested that the MoP **provide** advice on the level of resourcing that is envisioned for the development and adoption of management procedures, while noting

that if SIOFA shifts to a management procedure-based MSE approach, some of the resources that would previously have been allocated to stock assessment work could be reallocated to management procedure-related work.

169. The SC recommended that the MoP **endorse** the holding of a two-day workshop on SIOFA-PAM-related work in late 2026 or early 2027, which will consider the recommendations from the SIOFA-PAM projects and consolidate advice to SC12 on next steps, workplans, and an implementation plan for PAM, taking into account any decisions from MoP12. The SC further recommended that the MoP **endorse** the holding of a one-day MoP-SC joint workshop in late April or early May 2027 to consider the outcomes of the SC's work and provide preliminary advice to the MoP and CCPs, thereby facilitating further discussions on ways forward at MoP14.

170. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that the SC intends to delay the implementation of management procedure-related work for 12 months and that the SC will identify key parts of any consultancy starting in 2027–2028, if required.

7. Stock assessments and advice

7.2. Alfonsino

7.2.1. Descriptive characterisation

209. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the definition and description of benthopelagic trawls in Annex H.

213. The SC recommended that the MoP **reclassify** any mid-water trawl using the agreed algorithm (Annex I) 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).

7.2.2. Stock monitoring and data collection (including ageing)

226. The SC recommended that all CCPs who fish for alfonsino should routinely collect length and otolith samples using the same random sampling methodology.

7.3. Toothfish

7.3.3. Stock assessment

255. Based on the catch trend analysis rules, the SC recommended that the MoP **set** the 2026–27 season catch limit for the WR Management Area at 112 t, being 0.8 x the 2025–26 season catch limit.

263. The SC recommended that the MoP **adopt** a modified version of paragraph 21 of CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks), 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.”

264. The SC recommended that the MoP **adopt** a modified version of paragraph 14 of CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) as follows: “... 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.”

265. The SC recommended 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.

266. The SC considered the results of the trend analysis and its associated uncertainties presented in SC-11-55 and noted that there was a sufficient number of recaptures for the Chapman mark-recapture biomass estimate. The SC recommended that the MoP **set** a catch limit of 52.8 t, being 1.2 x the 2025–26 season catch limit, for the DCR Management Area for the 2026–27 season, based on the Chapman biomass estimate.

271. For the proposed SIR Management Area, the SC noted that fishing has taken place in the last five years but insufficient tag recaptures had been observed to use the Chapman mark-recapture biomass estimate. Therefore, given there was a decreasing trend in the CPUE-by-seabed analogy biomass estimates, the SC recommended that the MoP **set** a catch limit of 66.7 t for the proposed SIR Management Area for the 2026–27 season, which is 0.8 x the catch limit recommended by SC10 (83.4 t).

7.3.4. Updates to the fisheries summary

277. The SC recommended that the MoP **endorse** the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: Toothfish 2026 and task the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.

7.4. Oilfish

7.4.2. Stock monitoring and data collection

284. The SC recommended that, if there are no revisions or only minor revisions to the working draft during the intersessional review process, the MoP **endorse** the Fisheries Summary: oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*) and escolar (*Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*) 2026 and task the Secretariat to make a public version of it available on the SIOFA website.

7.5. Other species

7.5.3. Squid

298. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that the spatial extent of China's historical squid jigging fishery spans all SIOFA Subareas.

299. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that, in light of the spatial extent of China's historical squid-fishing in the SIOFA Area and biological research on the same species from an adjacent area to the SIOFA Area, and the fact that squid are a mobile species, this may be a straddling stock. As such, the MoP may wish to consider whether there are any potential management implications.

8. Bycatch and incidental captures

8.4. IOTC bycatch

336. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that several non-contracting parties have made significant catches of SIOFA species that have not been reported to SIOFA.

337. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that several CCPs are reporting catch of SIOFA species to the IOTC but not to SIOFA.

338. The SC recommended that the MoP **request** CCPs that are members of the IOTC to request that the IOTC improve bycatch reporting and species identification.

9. Benthic Fishery Closures CMM 18(2025) and marine protected areas

10.2. Benthic Fishery Closures and protected area designation

370. The SC recommended that the MoP **consider** whether or not it would be beneficial to task the Secretariat to submit the SIOFA BFCs to the World Data Base on MPAs and OECMs.

11. New and Exploratory Fisheries CMM 17(2025)

11.1. Proposal for new and exploratory fisheries

374. The SC agreed that it is therefore not necessary for Thailand to submit a proposal for a new and exploratory fishery or a FOP. The SC also noted that Thailand did not need to submit a BFIA given that it was a research cruise and there was relatively low bottom impact of the planned activities. The SC also noted that the requirements for impact assessments should be developed as a part of the development of a framework for research cruises and scientific research.

376. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that the SC considers Thailand's proposed research cruise to be a useful contribution to SIOFA's science and supported Thailand undertaking this research.

379. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the revised Fisheries Operation Plan Checklist (Annex L).

11.3. Scientific considerations of proposals to amend CMM 17(2025)

387. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that Mauritius has submitted catch data and other information from its alfonso mid-water and benthopelagic trawl fishery to the SC as requested by MoP12 (MoP12 Report, para 216).

388. The SC recommended that the MoP **include** Mauritius as a participant in the fishery targeting alfonso with mid-water and benthopelagic trawl in Annex 1 (Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area) of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).

393. The SC recommended that the MoP **adopt** the draft amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex M).

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

12.2. Development of a research cruise and scientific research framework

434. The SC recommended that the MoP **continue** its efforts to establish a CMM for research cruises and scientific research. The SC recommended that for research cruises, the CMM should 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.

13. Scientific Observers

13.2. E-monitoring

445. The SC requested a clarification from the MoP of the overall objectives of the SIOFA EM programme, including whether the data could also be used for compliance purposes.

14. Climate change

14.2. Scientific advice on the potential implications of climate change

457. The SC recommended that MoP **note** that it is undertaking work on assessing the vulnerability of SIOFA species and ecosystems to climate change impacts through Project CLI-2025-01 and that it has reviewed a preliminary report at SC11. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the following key findings from the preliminary report:

- a. The Indian Ocean is among the first ocean basins where compounding climate pressures will have detectable impacts on fish populations, while also being a highly under-studied ocean basin.
- b. SIOFA species will face conditions that species in other basins have not yet encountered. The biological characteristics of many SIOFA species are such that it will be inherently difficult or impossible for them to cope with these conditions.
- c. A shorter window for management responses applies across the full portfolio of SIOFA species, including species with lower fishing pressure and lower monitoring. A fishery that is not heavily fished is therefore not necessarily safe from climate risk. There is a risk that SIOFA will not detect changes until it is too late to respond. Therefore, SIOFA should equip itself to anticipate the change and plan management responses.

458. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that the SC intends to hold an online workshop to consider the outcomes of the Project CLI-2025-01 final report and utilise the climate change risk assessment framework for several indicative trial species (WS2026-CLI).

459. The SC recommended that the MoP **consider** tasking the SC with developing climate change indicators that should be regularly reported on and updated annually.

16. Future work

16.3. The SIOFA Performance Review

475. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** that the SC had provided a summary of progress made in 2025 on the recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel that were adopted at MoP12 (SC-11-22-Rev1).

16.4. Capacity building

481. The SC requested that the MoP **advise** whether to include projects aimed at capacity development for SIDS in the scope of a potential consultancy to develop a capacity-building action plan.

16.7. The 2027 meeting of the Scientific Committee

498. The SC recommended to the MoP that the next SC meeting, including any focused agenda topics, be held before Easter for 7 days from 15 to 23 March 2027.

17. Other business

502. The SC recommended that the MoP **note** the 2026 recipients of the SIOFA Scientific Service Award.

17.2. Elections of the SC Chairperson and vice-chairperson

513. The SC recommended that the MoP note that the SC agreed to re-elect Dr Zhou Fang (China) as an SC Vice-Chairperson.

List of acronyms used in these recommendations:

BFC – Benthic Fishery Closure(s)

OECM – Other Effective Conservation Measures

DCR – Del Cano Rise toothfish management area

WR – Williams Ridge management area

SIR – South Indian Ridge management area

Annex D- SC11 Technical amendments to CMM 02 (2025) (Data Standards)

CMM 02(2025)¹

Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards)

The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;
RECALLING that Article 6(1) (f) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Meeting of the Parties to develop rules for the collection and verification of scientific and statistical data, as well as for the submission, publication, dissemination and use of such data;

FURTHER RECALLING that Articles 10(1)(c) and 11(3) set out the duties relevant to the collection and provision of data and related processes for Contracting Parties and flag CCPs respectively;

RECOGNISING the importance of developing comprehensive arrangements for data collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data to assist the Scientific Committee in performing its functions as outlined in Article 7 of the Agreement;

NOTING the relevance of Articles 10(e) and 14 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 call on States to cooperate through regional fisheries management organisations to agree on the standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data on fisheries for the stocks, and the specifications and format for the data to be provided and to cooperate in their scientific research;

CONSIDERING the provisions set forth in the *Resolution on data collection concerning the high seas in the Southern Indian Ocean*, adopted by the Conference on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement in the Seychelles from 13-16 July 2004;

NOTING the importance of data collection and catch reporting for the purposes of ensuring scientific stock assessment and implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

¹ CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) supersedes CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards).

NOTING the recommendation by the Third meeting of the Scientific Committee to improve the collection of sharks catch information and the submission of scientific observer data; and

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

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

Application

1. This CMM applies to all Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities (CCPs).
2. This CMM prescribes the standards for the collection, reporting, verification, and exchange of data related to fishing activities by vessels fishing in the SIOFA Area of Application (the Agreement Area) that are flying the flag of a CCP. These data standards shall assist the Meeting of the Parties to fulfil its objectives under the Agreement insofar as it relates to assessing the state of the fisheries within SIOFA's competence, including the status of target and non-target species and the impact of fishing on the marine environment.

Terminology

3. The following definitions apply to this CMM including its annexes:
 - a. 'other species of concern' means those species as may be defined by the Scientific Committee from time to time.
 - b. 'National Report' means the report defined in paragraph-9 of this CMM.

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Collection of data

4. CCPs shall ensure that data on fishing activities, including for target, non-target and associated and dependent species such as marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern', are collected from vessels flying their flag that are fishing in the Agreement Area in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex A.
5. CCPs shall collect vessel catch and effort data on a haul-by-haul basis, with the exception of handline fishing, where CCPs shall collect vessel catch and effort data on an operation ² basis.

Data collection and submission

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.
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)

² An operation is the daily activity of a main vessel (including its dories), where catch is the daily catch and effort is the number of active fishers per day and the number of lines fished per day.

- 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.
8. To assist in data collection CCPs engaged in, or intending to engage in, fishing pursuant to CMM 01(2025) shall implement on-board all fishing vessels flying their flag the FAO Identification guide to the deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean³. Where available the use of Smartforms may be considered.

National report

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:
- a. For the first report: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous five calendar years;
 - 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.

Historical Data

10. To assist with the development of a bottom fishing footprint and stock assessments, each CCP shall provide the Secretariat with all historical catch and effort, and if available observer data for vessels flying their flag and fishing in the Agreement Area at any time during period 2000-2015 and any previous years where available in accordance with annex A and annex B to the extent applicable. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a Party to the Agreement, a CNCP or PFE after the date this CMM is adopted shall provide their historical data to the Secretariat within 12 months of becoming Party to the Agreement, or becoming a CNCP or PFE.
11. Where possible, CCPs are encouraged to provide relevant, reliable historical data for species caught in waters under their national jurisdiction where such information would assist in understanding the status of the stocks and the impacts of fishing on all target species, non-target and associated and dependent species and the marine environment within the Agreement Area.

Scientific Observer Data

12. All CCPs shall implement national scientific observer programs to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag:
- a. Vessel information, effort and catch data for its fishing activities in the Agreement Area, including target, non-target and associated and dependent species including marine mammals, marine reptiles, seabirds or 'other species of concern';
 - b. Biological or other data and information relevant to the management of fishery

³ Ebert, D.A. and Mostarda, E. 2013. Identification guide to the deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean, FishFinder Programme, FAO, Rome. 76 p

resources in the Agreement Area, as specified in this CMM, or as identified from time to time by the Scientific Committee or through processes identified by the Meeting of the Parties; and

- c. Relevant scientific information related to the implementation of the provisions of the CMMs adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

13. The function and tasks of the scientific observer are described in Annex D.

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.

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.

16. By 2023, the Scientific Committee shall develop and adopt a template for the observer reports, and a template for an observer data collection form that may be used by observers in subsequent years.

17. By 2023, the Meeting of the Parties, based on recommendations from the Scientific Committee and the Compliance Committee shall adopt a SIOFA framework for scientific observation clarifying all the aspects related to the role.

Data Verification

18. CCPs shall:

- a. ensure that fishery data are verified through an appropriate system of data verification mechanisms;
- b. develop, implement, and improve data verification mechanisms, which may include:
 - i. Position verification through vessel monitoring systems;
 - ii. Independent monitoring, including scientific observer programs and approved electronic observer programs,⁴ to verify industry data on catch, effort, catch composition (target and non-target), discards and other details of fishing operations;
 - iii. Vessel trip, landing and transshipment reports; and
 - iv. Port sampling.
- c. provide to the Scientific Committee, through their National Report, an annual data verification report which should provide information regarding their development and implementation of data verification mechanisms.

Format for data submission

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.

20. Specifications for the submission of data:

⁴ Approved electronic observer programs refers to those programs that meet the SIOFA agreed standard and have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Parties as being capable of meeting the data requirements in this CMM.

- a. times, latitudinal /longitudinal/ information and units of measure are to be reported in accordance with the format described in Annex C;
- b. Species are to be described using the FAO 3 letter Species Codes;⁵
- c. Fishing methods are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG - 29 July 1980) codes;⁶ and
- d. Types of fishing vessels are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels (ISSCFV) codes.⁷

Review

21. This CMM should be reviewed periodically by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account new information or data requirements as may be decided.

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/asfis/en>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/>

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/>

Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data Annexes

List of Annexes:

Annex A - Vessel Catch and Effort Data

Annex B - Observer Data

Annex C - Specifications for the Exchange of Data

Annex D – Function and tasks of the scientific observer

Annex E - Protocol for documenting whale interaction in deep-sea demersal longline fisheries

Annex A

Vessel Catch and Effort Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following data on fishing activities are collected in the Agreement Area:

For all demersal fishing vessels flying their flag:

Data Set - Fishing activities General (Trip) Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel International radio call sign (if any) Vessel Registration number (flag CCP) Lloyd's / IMO / IHS Fairplay Number (if allocated) Vessel size: Gross Tonnage (Gross register tonnage may be used if GT is not available, or both) Name of person filling in the data
Weight Conversion Factor Species Processing type Conversion factor = live weight/processed weight
Haul Information Intended Target species (FAO code) Type of fishing (C)ommercial; (R)esearch; (S)urvey data Haul ID number
Set Start date and Time (Based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)) Recorded at start and end of fishing For longline vessels - record at start and end of setting, in addition to start and end of haul Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm)
Position at start and end of fishing Latitude Longitude For longline vessels: position is recorded at the start and end of setting For bottom trawl fishing: "start" is defined as when the groundrope first touch the bottom, and "end" is when the groundrope leaves the bottom at the beginning of hauling. For midwater trawl: "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the tow haul begins. For handline fishing: record the position of the vessels at the start and at the end of the fishing operation
Bottom Depth (m) As recorded at the start and end of fishing.
Fishing / gear depth (m) As recorded at the start and end of fishing. For trapping/potting, Actual Fishing / gear depth (m) as recorded at start is required.
Species retained

<p>Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in green weight (kg). Total number retained by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)</p>
<p>Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in green weight (kg). In addition, if possible, total number discarded by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)</p>
<p>Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Presence: Yes / No For each species caught <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxa name • Number alive • Number dead or injured </p>
<p>Incidental bycatch of VME indicator taxa Presence: Yes / No For each species caught <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxa name </p>

For all pelagic fishing vessels targeting SIOFA species flying their flag:

<p>Data Set - Fishing activities General (Trip) Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha) Name of vessel International radio call sign (if any) Vessel Registration number (flag CCP) Lloyd's / IMO /IHS Fairplay Number (if allocated) Vessel size: Gross Tonnage (Gross register tonnage may be used if GT is not available, or both) Name of person filling in the data</p>
<p>Weight Conversion Factor Species Processing type Conversion factor = live weight/processed weight</p>
<p>Haul Information Intended Target species (FAO code) Type of fishing (C)ommercial; (R)esearch; (S)urvey data Haul ID number</p>
<p>Set Start date and Time (Based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)) Recorded at start of fishing Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm)</p>
<p>Position at start of fishing Latitude Longitude</p>
<p>Species retained Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in live weight (kg)</p>
<p>Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in live weight (kg)</p>
<p>Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern'</p>

Presence: Yes / No

For each species caught

- Taxa name
- Number alive
- Number dead or injured

2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall ensure that the following gear-specific data on fishing activities, as applicable, are collected from all fishing vessels flying their flag in the Agreement Area.

Data Set – Gear
Trawl Cod end mesh Size (mm) Trawl technique: Type of trawl: (S)ingle, (D)ouble or (T)ripple
Demersal Longline Type of longline (Spanish, Trotline, Autoline) Total length (m) Type of bait Hook size (mm) Hook spacing (m) Hook code or make Length of line (m) Number of hooks set Number hooks per cluster (if Trotline) Number of hooks lost (attached to lost sections of line)
Pelagic Longline Total length (m) Total number of hooks in the set Number of hooks between floats Number of light-stick used in the set Type of bait used in the set Sea surface temperature at noon (Length of floating line) (Length of branch line) (Distance between branch lines)
Trap/Pot Pot type Type of line: Dropline or longline Length of line (m) Pot spacing (m) Number of pots set Number of pots lost Type of bait
Dahn/Drop Line/ Total number of hooks in the set Total number of line lifts in the set Number of hooks lost Hook code or make Type of leader used Type of bait used

Data Set – Gear
Handline Number of fishers involved Number of lines per fisher Number of hooks per line
Squid Jigging Power of fish lamp (kw) Use of the fish finder (Y/N) Number of fishers Number of line machines Fishing duration by hand (h) Fishing duration by machines (h) Number of hooks on per line
<u>Light seining</u> <u>Type of light seining gear</u> <u>FAO Gear code: SV-boat seine (02.2), LNB-boat-operated-liftnet (05.2) and FCN cast net (06.1)</u> <u>Lighting</u> <u>Total Power of fish lamp (kW)</u> <u>Lamp Type (e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED)</u> <u>Total power of underwater lamps (kW)</u> <u>Total power of above sea level lamps (kW)</u> <u>Lighting duration (hours) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively</u> <u>Net details</u> <u>Length on mouth net (m)</u> <u>Width on mouth net (m)</u> <u>Cod end mesh Size (mm)</u>

Annex B

Observer Data

1. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, for all observed trips, collect and provide to the Secretariat the data contained in this Annex in accordance with the format set out below.
2. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall, where appropriate, ensure that observers are briefed and provided with documented length-frequency and biological sampling protocols and the specific priorities for the trip for the sampling activities documented below.
3. Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs shall endeavour to collect tissue, otolith and/or stomach samples in accordance with any research programs developed by the Scientific Committee.

Hierarchies for Observer Data collection

Fishing Operation Information

All vessel and tow / set / effort information.

Reporting of Catches

Record time, weight of catch sampled versus total catch or effort (e.g. number of hooks), and total numbers of each species caught

Identification and counts of endangered, threatened or protected species (ETP), seabirds, mammals, reptiles (e.g., turtles), sensitive benthic species and vulnerable species

Record numbers or weights of each species retained or discarded Record instances of depredation, where appropriate

Biological Sampling

Check for presence of tags

Length-frequency data for Target species (FAO species code)

Basic biological data (sex, maturity) for Target species (FAO species code)

Length-frequency data for main bycatch species

Otoliths (and stomach samples, if being collected) for Target species (FAO species code)

Basic biological data for bycatch species

Biological samples of bycatch species (if being collected)

Take photos

Observer Data Sections Common to all fisheries

Data Set - Observer data
Trip Details Trip Number Cruise details (start and end dates - YYYY.MON.DD) Date report is generated (UTC) Current vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha)

Name of vessel
Observer Details Observer name and ID Nationality (ISO 3-apha) Employing organisation Contact name in organisation (Address/email/fax) Boarding location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude) Boarding Date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD) Disembarkation location (UNLOCODE, if applicable or Latitude/Longitude) Disembarkation date (UTC:YYYY.MON.DD) Time Zone (UTC +/-)
Length Frequency Data Representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data shall be collected for the target species (FAO species code) Length data shall be collected and recorded at the most precise level appropriate for the species (cm or mm and whether to the nearest unit or unit below) and the type of measurement used (total length, fork length, or standard length) shall also be recorded. Where possible, total weight of length-frequency samples should be recorded, or estimated and the method of estimation recorded Where possible, Observers should determine and record sex of measured fish to generate length-frequency data stratified by sex Where possible, representative and randomly sampled length-frequency data should be collected for other main bycatch species
Biological Sampling Species Length (mm or cm) and the type of length measurement used. Skates and rays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum disk width shall be measured Sharks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate length measurement to be used should be selected for each species. As a default, total length should be measured. Weight (kg) Sex (male, female, immature (optional), unsexed (optional)) Maturity stage (optional) and criteria/schedule used (optional) Gonad weight (g) (optional) Otoliths
Seabird & Marine Mammals abundance observation (to be recorded for each operation and for all gears/fisheries):

<p>Operation ID (Set ID, tow ID) At Setting or At Hauling (At setting/At hauling/Not applicable) Seabirds present in observation area? (Yes/No/Not Observed) Species Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)</p> <p>Operation ID (Set ID, tow ID) Marine Mammals present in observation area? (Yes/No/Not Observed) Species Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)</p>
<p>Observed catch (to be recorded for each operation and for all gears/fisheries, record weight or number according to the fishery)</p> <p>Operation ID (Set_ID, Tow_ID) Observer ID</p> <p>FAO ASFIS Species code</p> <p><i>Species retained</i> Total Number retained Weight retained (kg)</p> <p><i>Species discarded</i> Total Number discarded Weight discarded (kg) Number discarded alive Number discarded dead</p> <p>Number or weight of fish lost (if applicable) Number or weight of fish cut off (if applicable) Number of fish depredated (if applicable) Comments</p>
<p>Incidental bycatch of ETP species (seabirds, mammals, turtles or 'other species of concern') The following data shall be collected for all seabirds, mammals, turtles, and other species of concern caught in fishing operations as much as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible, or accompanied by photographs if identification is difficult) and size • Estimated species abundance around fishing vessel • Species interactions with fishing gear • Count of the number of each species caught per tow or set • Fate of bycatch animal(s) (retained or released/discarded) • If released, life status (vigorous, alive, lethargic, injured, dead) upon release • If injured, what was the cause of injury? • If dead, then collect information or samples for onshore identification in accordance with pre-determined sampling protocols. Where this is not possible, observers may be required to collect sub-samples of identifying parts, as specified in biological sampling protocols

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the type of interaction (hook/line entanglement/warp strike/net capture/other) if other, describe • Sex of each individual for taxa where this is feasible from external observation, e.g. pinnipeds, small cetaceans or <i>Elasmobranchii</i> species • identify any circumstances or actions that may have contributed to the bycatch event? (E.g. tori line tangle, high levels of bait loss)

Tag releases

The following data shall be reported for all tagged fish, seabird, mammal, or reptile

- Tag type
- Tag, wording
- Tag colour
- Tag number
- Date and time of tagging
- Species
- Animal length
- Type of length
- Animal sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
-
- Position (Lat/Lon) of release
- Animal status at release (injured/uninjured)

Tag Recoveries

The following data shall be collected for all recovered fish, seabird, mammal or reptile tags if the organism is dead, to be retained, or alive:

- Name of observer
- Name of vessel
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Vessel flag CCP (ISO 3-apha)
- Collect, label (with all details below) and store the actual tags for later return to the tagging agency
- Species from which tag recovered
- Tag colour
- Tag wording and type of tag (spaghetti, archival)
- Tag numbers
- Date and time of capture (UTC)
- Location of capture (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Animal length / size (cm or mm) with description of what measurement was taken (such as total length, fork length, etc.)
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
- Maturity stage
- Gonad weight (g)
- Tag Site Condition
- Samples retained
- Tag photo (include in cruise report)
- Whether the tags were found during a period of fishing that was being observed (Y/N)

--

Bird Bands

The following data shall be reported for all seabird bands retrieved or spotted

- Species
- Band identifier
- Date and time of observation (UTC)
- Location of observation (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute) or Operation ID
- Type of interaction (with gear, with vessel, no interaction with gear or vessel)
- Photo taken? (Yes/No)
- State (likely to survive, injured, dead)

Bird interaction with vessel and collisions (excluding fishing gear)

- Species
- Number of birds
- Date and time of observation (UTC)
- Location of observation (Lat/Lon, to the nearest 1 minute)
- Photo taken? (Yes/No)
- State (likely to survive, injured, dead)
- Vessel activity (steaming, fishing, other)
- Type of interaction (collision, entanglement, bird found landed)
- Description of the interaction (including location of the bird on the vessel)
- Presence of fog (yes/no)
- Wind speed (kts) and bearing (°)
- Sea state (Beaufort)
- Description of vessel lighting at the moment of the observation

Bycatch mitigation gears details

Streamer line

General Streamer Line Description

Number of streamer lines regularly set
Streamer line position (port, starboard, stern)
Streamer line length (m)
Streamer length min/max (m)
Attached height above water (m)
Distance between streamers (m)
Number of streamers
Streamer design (single or paired)
Aerial extent of line (m)
Method used to assess aerial extent

Streamer material
Streamer line diameter (mm)
Streamer colours
Streamer line over bait entry position? (y/n/u)
Distance from stern to bait entry point (m)
Towed object (Y/N)
Horizontal distance from bait entry point to streamer line (m)

Bird baffler

Other bycatch mitigation device

Trotline cetacean exclusion device

Photo taken of the mitigation gear?

Interactions with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

General information

Name of observer

Name of vessel

Date

Trip number

Set number

VME location

Start and end positions of all gear deployments and/or observations.

(Latitude/longitude)

Depth(s) fished (m)

Fishing Gear

Indicate fishing gears used at each location

VME Taxa

Presence: Yes/No

a) Species (identified taxonomically as far as possible or accompanied by a photograph where identification is difficult).

b) An estimate of the quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m³)) of each listed benthic species caught in the tow (and the unit of measurement).

c) An overall estimate of the total quantity (weight (kg) or volume (m³)) of all invertebrate benthic species caught in the tow (and the unit of measurement).

d) Where possible, provide the live or dead status for corals

e) Where possible, and particularly for new or scarce benthic species which do not appear in ID guides, whole samples should be collected and suitably preserved for identification on shore.

e) Collect representative biological samples from the entire VME catch. (Biological samples shall be collected and frozen when requested by the scientific authority in a Contracting Party). For some coral species that are under the CITES list photographs should be taken.

Other sessile benthos taxa

Presence: Yes/No
For each catch of taxa
Scientific names (identified to the finest taxon level possible)
FAO code (if available)
Estimation of the amount caught

Processing Details and Conversion Factors (CF)

Operation ID (setID, towID)
Name of observer
Species Code (FAO species code)
Processing Code
Length Type
Minimum Length (cm)
Maximum Length (cm)
Number of individuals
Total Green Weight (kg)
Weighting Method
Processed Weight (kg)
Size Grade
Quality Grade
Conversion Factor

Observer data sections that are gear and fishery specific

For trawl fishing activities ONLY

Gear details

Net ID

Gear type (ISSFCV)

Headrope length (m)

Ground rope length (m)

Ground rope bobbins present?

Ground rope bobbins material (steel or rubber)

Ground rope bobbins weight (combined)

Bobbin diameter (cm)

Otter board to wing length (m)

Horizontal Opening, i.e. wingspread (m)

Vertical Opening (m)

Codend mesh

Mesh size (cm),

codend circumference (cm),

Orientation

Mesh type (diamond, square, etc)

Otter board

Type, weight (kg)

Net design

Net design description including make, model etc

Selectivity device present? (Y/N)

Selectivity device description

Net monitoring cables present? (Y/N)

Trawl details

Trawl Number

Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Trawl type: Research or Commercial (R/C)

Observed (Yes/No)

Target Species (FAO species code)

Date Start (YYYY.MON.DD)

Date Finish (YYYY.MON.DD)

Time net deployed (hh:mm)

Time net retrieved (hh:mm)

Start and End Fishing

For bottom trawl "start" is defined as when the groundrope is on the bottom, "end" is when the hauling starts.

For midwater trawl "start" is defined as when the fishing gear is at target fishing depth, "end" is when the hauling starts.

Time (hh:mm)

Latitude

Longitude

Trawl Depth (m)

Bottom Depth (m)

Other

Offal discharged during shooting (Y/N)

Offal discharged during hauling (Y/N)

Trawl speed (knots)

Total catch (kg)

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):

Record the total weight of all sub-samples for this shot (kg):

Trawl gear strike (to be monitored for 15 minutes immediately after the net has been deployed) (optional):

Start observation time (hh:mm) (optional)

End observation time (hh:mm) (optional)

Species

Nb of light strikes

Light strikes contact place:

Number on windward ward

Number on leeward ward

Number on monitoring cable

Number on net

Nb of heavy strikes

Heavy strikes contact place:

Number on windward ward

Number on leeward ward

Number on monitoring cable

Number on net

Heavy strike fate:

Number aerial

Number sea surface

Number submerged

State of the bird(s) after strike

Number Likely to survive

Number Injured

Number Dead

Number Unknown

For Longline fishing activities ONLY

Longline Description:

Longline Type (ISSCFG codes)
Period in which the gear was used (YYYY.MON.DD)
Start and end date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Target Species (FAO species code)

Main Line:

Material
Diameter (mm)

For Integrated Weight Lines (IWL):
Integrated weight (g/m)

For non-IWL:
Weight spacing (m)
Number of measured weights
Weight type
Average weight (kg)
Standard deviation (kg)

Branch Lines:

Material
Length (m)
Spacing (m)
Branchline weights (kg)
Branchline weight distance from hook (m)

Hooks

Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.)
Manufacturer
Marking (vessel mark, leave blank for none)
Model name
Size (mm)
Shank (mm)
Gape (mm)
Usual setting position
Line off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Hooks off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Method of baiting (manual/automatic)
Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Hook sinkers

Size (g)
Position from hook (mm)

Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)
Longline setting position (port, starboard, stern)
Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)
Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)
Detail the weight and distance between the line weights for the longline system used
Single (Auto) Line (kg:m)

Double (Spanish) Line (kg:m)
Trotline (vertical droppers/trots attached to a mainline) (kg:m)

Daily setting observations

Set Number (as referenced in catch and effort log)
Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID
Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID
Longline Type Code (FSSCV)
Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Setting information

Vessel setting speed (knots)
Number sets unobserved since last set

Start and End setting for each haul

Date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Time (hh:mm)
Latitude
Longitude
Bottom Depth (m)

Total length of longline set (km)
Total number of hooks for the set

For each Observation

Start date (YYYY.MON.DD)
Start time (hh:mm)
End date (YYYY.MON.DD)
End time (hh:mm)

Details of Longline Setting

Number of Baskets/Magazines Set
Number of hooks per Basket/Magazine
Percentage hooks baited
Distance between branches (m)
Distance of hooks off bottom (m) (optional for pelagic longline)
Bait species (FAO species code)
Deck lights during setting (On, Off)
Streamer lines used (Yes, No)
Number of streamer lines used
Offal dumping during setting (Yes, No)
Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)
Clip on Interval (seconds)
Setting Speed (Line setter)

Daily hauling observations

Set number

Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Hauling Information

Number of hooks observed for seabird and fish bycatch (tally period)

Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Interactions with marine mammals

Data is to be collected in accordance with the protocol set out in annex E. For each haul and each species of depredating whales (killer whales *Orcinus orca* and sperm whales *Physeter macrocephalus*):

- Priority 1 data to be collected include:

1. Presence/absence data: Presence / Absence / Not observed;
2. When presence, photo-identification data: photographs of specific body parts (for killer whales: dorsal fin, saddle patch and eye patches; for sperm whales: tail flukes) visible when whales come to the surface.

- Priority 2 data to be collected include:

1. Estimates of the number of individuals present around the vessel in the vicinity of the fishing gear.

- Priority 3 data to be collected include:

1. Information about whether or not whales interact with the gear;
2. Estimate of the time of arrival of whales in the vicinity of the gear.

Gear lost

Number of sections lost

Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the longline

Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached to lost sections)

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):

Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)

For Trapping/Potting Fishing Activities ONLY

Trap/Pot type (with drawing)

Mesh size (mm)

Material

Funnel position

Orientation

Aperture (cm)

Number of chambers

Escape port present (y/n)

Dimensions (cm) of escape port

Weights attached?

Min Weight (kg)

<p>Max Weight (kg)</p> <p><i>Set and haul details</i></p> <p>Set Number</p> <p>Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)</p> <p>Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID</p> <p>Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID</p> <p>Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID</p> <p>Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)</p> <p>Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)</p> <p>Target species (FAO species code)</p> <p>Offal dumped during setting (Yes / No)</p> <p>Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)</p> <p><i>Start and End setting. Repeat for hauling</i></p> <p>Date (YYYY.MON.DD)</p> <p>Time (:mm)</p> <p>Latitude</p> <p>Longitude</p> <p>Bottom depth (m)</p> <p><i>Gear Details</i></p> <p>Length of line (m)</p> <p>Type of line</p> <p>Trap/Pot spacing (m)</p> <p>Bait type</p> <p><i>Setting</i></p> <p>Number of pots/traps set</p> <p>Number of pots/traps observed</p> <p><i>Hauling</i></p> <p>number of pots/traps hauled</p> <p>number of pots/traps observed</p> <p>Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):</p> <p>Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%):</p>
<p>For Dahn/Drop lining activity ONLY</p> <p><i>Dahn/Dropline Description</i></p> <p>Line Type</p> <p>Period in which the gear was used () Start and end date</p> <p>Target species (FAO species code)</p> <p><i>Main Line</i></p> <p>Material</p> <p>Diameter (mm)</p>

Integrated weight (g/m)

Hooks

Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.)

Manufacturer

Marking (leave blank for none)

Model name

Size (mm)

Shank (mm)

Gape (mm)

Usual setting position

Line off bottom (m)

Hooks off bottom (m)

Method of baiting (manual/automatic)

Automatic baiting equipment (make and model)

Offal

Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)

Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)

Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)

Details of Dahn/Dropline Setting

Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Main line length (m)

Number of hooks set

Percentage hooks baited

Distance between branches/snoods (m)

Distance of hooks off bottom (m)

Bait species

Bait size

Bait proportion

Deck lights during setting (On, Off)

Streamer lines used (Yes, No)

Number of streamer lines used Offal dumping during setting (Yes, No)

Daylight period

Moonlight

Bait entry position (Port, Starboard, Stern)

Vessel setting speed (knots)

Start and End setting. Repeat for Start and End of hauling

Date (YYYY.MON.DD)

Time (hh:mm)

Latitude

Longitude

Bottom Depth (m)

Gear lost

Number of sections lost

<p>Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the dahn/dropline</p> <p>Number of other hooks lost (excluding hooks attached to lost sections)</p> <p>Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):</p> <p>Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)</p>
<p>Handline fishing activity</p> <p>Handline Description</p> <p>Main Line Material Diameter (mm)</p> <p>Hooks Type (e.g.: J shaped, Circular, etc.) Manufacturer Marking (leave blank for none) Model name Size (mm)Shank (mm) Gape (mm)Usual setting position Line off bottom (m) Hooks off bottom (m)</p> <p>Offal Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern) Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always) Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)</p> <p>Details of Handline Operation Target species (FAO species code) Operation type: Research or Commercial (R/C) Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID</p> <p>Number of fishers operating handlines Number of line lifts per fisherman (average) Number of hooks per line Percentage hooks baited Bait species Bait size Bait proportion Deck lights during setting (On, Off)</p> <p>Start and End time of operation. (An operation is a defined period of fishing between start and end date) Date (YYYY.MON.DD) Time (hh:mm)</p> <p>Time Start (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)</p>

Time Finish (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm) Operation Latitude
Operation Longitude
Bottom Depth (m)

Gear lost

Number of hooks lost

Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimate percentage of the haul observed for bycatch (%)

Squid Jigging operation details:

Squid Jigging (operation) Number
Observed (Yes/No)
Target Species (FAO species code)
Time Start (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)
Time Finish (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)
Latitude of operation
Longitude of operation
Number of fishers
Number of jigging machines
Fishing duration by hand (h)
Fishing duration by machine (h)
Fish lamp used during fishing (Y/N)
[Sea Surface Temperature \(°C\) \(where possible\)](#)
Was fishing observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (Y/N):
Estimated percentage of the operation observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch (%)

For Light seining activity ONLY

[Type of light seining gear](#)
[-FAO Gear code: SV-boat seine \(02.2\), LNB-boat-operated-liftnet \(05.2\) and FCN cast net \(06.1\)](#)

[Target species \(FAO species code\)](#)

[Observed \(Yes/No\)](#)

[Lightning](#)
[Total Power of fish lamp \(kW\)](#)
[Lamp Type \(e.g. Metal Halide Lamp or LED\)](#)
[Total power of underwater lamps \(kW\)](#)
[Total power of above sea level lamps \(kW\)](#)
[Lighting duration \(hours\) on underwater lamps and above sea level lamps, respectively](#)
[Time Start fishing \(YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm\)](#)
[Time End fishing \(YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm\)](#)

[Latitude Start fishing](#)
[Longitude Start fishing](#)

[Lighting used during fishing \(Y/N\)](#)

[Maximum submergence depth of the net \(m\)](#)

[Was Haul observed for fish/invertebrate bycatch \(Y/N\)](#)

[Estimated percentage of the observed for fish/inverts bycatch \(%\)](#)

Annex C

Specifications for the Exchange of Data

1. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) shall be used to describe times, using the following submission format: YYYY-MON-DDThh:mm:ss where:

- a. YYYY - represents a 4-digit year e.g. "2007"
- b. MON - represents a 3-character month abbreviation e.g. "APR"
- c. DD - represents a 2-digit day e.g. "05"
- d. T - is a space separator
- e. hh - represents hours based on the 24hr clock (length = 2 digits) e.g. "16"
- f. mm - represents minutes (length = 2 digits) e.g. "05"
- g. ss - represent seconds (length = 2 digits) e.g. "00"

Example: 2003-JUL-17T13:10:00 = 1.10pm (1310h), 17 July 2003

2. Coordinates are to be used to describe precise locations and the following standards shall be used:

Degrees minutes seconds (DD°MM'SS") or Degrees minute decimal (DD°MM.XX) or Decimal degrees (DD.XXXX)

Add N or S to indicated North or South for latitudes. Add E to indicate the Eastern longitude (the SIOFA Area is always in the Eastern longitudes), for decimal degrees, add minus for southern latitudes.

Examples:

Latitude= 42°37'06" S Longitude= 48°03'58" E

Latitude= 35°09.70" S Longitude= 51°12.94"

Latitude= -10.0386 Longitude= 61.7088

3. Metric units of measure be used, specifically:

- a. kilograms are to be used to describe catch weight
- b. Metres are to be used to describe height, width, depth, beam, or length
- c. Cubic metres are to be used to describe volume
- d. Kilowatts are to be used to describe engine power

Annex D

Role and tasks of the scientific observer

1. The function of scientific observers on board vessels engaged in harvesting of marine living resources is to independently observe and report on the operation of fishing activities in the SIOFA Area.
2. In fulfilling this function, scientific observers will undertake the following tasks:
 - a. Record details of vessel operations, including inter alia, times of, searching, fishing, transit etc., and details of hauls;
 - b. Take biological samples of catches;
 - c. Record biological data of species caught;
 - d. Record bycatch information, such as species, quantity, and other biological data [as specified in Annex B]
 - e. Record interactions with seabirds, marine mammals, and marine reptiles
 - f. Record information on catch including data relating to processed conversion factors;
 - g. prepare reports of their observations for their respective national authorities;
 - h. collect and report data on sightings fishing vessels, unmarked fishing gear, and recovery of fishing gear in the SIOFA Area, including vessel type identification, vessel position and activity and gear type;
 - i. collect information on fishing gear loss and waste disposal by the fishing vessels at sea.

Annex E

Protocol for documenting whale interaction in deep-sea demersal longline fisheries

Priority 1 Data to be collected

Presence

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Fish Waste discharge	Presence ?	Comment
1	Yes/No	Absent	
2	Yes/No	Present	
3	Yes/No	Present	Night-time, but clearly see them in projectors
4	Yes/No	Not observed	Night-time, can't see them but can't say they are not present around.

Requirement: data mandatory and must be collected for every haul.

“Presence”: Favourable conditions (visibility is at least several hundred meters with sufficient light) and observation by the observer (observer can be alerted by the crew when whales are sighted). The presence of whales is confirmed by direct observation of at least one individual at the surface in the vicinity of the vessel at least once during 1 haul. Note that presence can also be observed at night when killer whales come very close to the boat.

“Absence”: Favourable conditions and no odontocete spotted at any time during the entire haul.

“Not observed” is used either if the observer did not have time to gather information (e.g. if line broke), or if conditions are too bad to observe (either weather conditions, or hauling at night).

Photos

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	Photos?	Comment
1	Absent	No	
2	Present	Yes	
3	Present	No	Night-time: too dark for pictures
4	Not observed	No	Night-time: too dark for pictures

Requirement: data mandatory and must be collected for every haul.

With this additional field, observers indicate whether they took pictures of whales for photo-identification purposes or not during the haul of the set.

Priority 2 Data to be collected

Number of individuals

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	minimum	maximum	comment
1	Absent	0	0	
2	Present	15	22	
3	Present	1		At least one but too dark for accurate estimate
4	Not observed			

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

Providing exact counts of individuals from the surface may be difficult for observers as whales can dive for long periods of time. To account for uncertainty around counts, observers may fill in two fields:

- Minimum estimate of the number of individuals,
- Maximum estimate of the number of individuals.

Priority 3 Data to be collected

Interaction with fishing gear

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	Interaction with fishing gear?	Comment
1	Absent	No	
2	Present	Yes	Saw them diving close to the line
3	Present	Yes	Head of fish were observed
4	Not observed		

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

When Presence, interaction with fishing gear is taken into account if whales are diving close to the lines or directly observed with fish in their mouths.

Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)

For every haul and for each species:

Haul	Presence?	ETA	Comment
1	Absent	NA	Not applicable
2	Present	0:30	We were able to haul 30 minutes before they arrive
3	Present	0:00	Saw them in projectors even before first hook came on board
4	Not observed	NA	Not applicable

Requirement: data should be collected for every haul to the extent possible.

The Estimated Time of Arrival here corresponds to the time between the first hook of the line hauled on board and the arrival of sperm whales / killer whales. If whales are already present when hauling starts, then ETA is zero.

Annex E- Checklist for SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA) evaluation according to the SIOFA BFIA Standard

Last modified at SC11 in 2026

Preamble

Any CP or CNCP or PFE (CCP) that authorises or is seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag to bottom fish in the Agreement Area shall submit to the Secretariat, no less than 30 days prior to the next annual meeting of the Scientific Committee, a Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA) for its individual bottom fishing activities in the Agreement Area.

SIOFA BFIA's may need to be updated when a substantial change in the fishery has occurred, such that it is likely that the risk or impacts of the fishery may have changed

The Scientific Committee (SC) shall consider all BFIA's received at its next ordinary meeting and provide advice in its meeting report as to the likely cumulative impacts of bottom fishing impact activity from vessels flying the flag of a CCP in the Agreement Area, and whether each BFIA meets the requirements of paragraph 26 of CMM 01, including those laid out in the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standards (BFIA's).

Scientific Committee Assessment Checklist and Recommendations

This checklist is for the Scientific Committee to complete to ensure that all aspects of the proposed BFIA have been assessed against the BFIA's.

To assist the Scientific Committee with their deliberations, a BFIA proponent should pre-fill the Rationale column with a brief justification of how the BFIA addresses the Standard requirements for Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will complete the Assessment column to identify any critical failures within the proposed BFIA.

The SC assigns a status of either **Yes**, **No**, or **Partial** when evaluating the proponent's rationale.

Part 1: Foundational & Procedural Requirements				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
1.1	BFIA submitted for all proposed bottom fishing in the SIOFA Area — regardless of scale, history, or gear type.			
1.2	Submitted ≥30 days prior to SC meeting (or as soon as possible for legacy fisheries).			
1.3	For new fisheries: BFIA submitted before fishing commences.			
1.4	Terms used consistently with Annex A definitions (e.g., VME, New Fishery, Bottom Fishing).			
1.5	Assessment explicitly applies the precautionary approach (esp. under data limitation).			
1.6	Overarching objectives stated: (a) Prevent Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs; (b) Ensure long-term sustainability of deep-sea stocks.			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.1 Description of Proposed Fishing Activities				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.1.1	Vessel details provided per SIOFA Data Standards; vessel confirmed on SIOFA record of authorized vessels.			
2.1.2	Full gear description: e.g., type, net/bottom line dimensions, door size/weight, footrope, ground gear (bobbins, etc.), fishing height, selectivity factors.			
2.1.3	Seabed depth range, target & bycatch species, intended period/duration specified. ¹			
2.1.4	Quantified effort: # vessels, # tows/sets, estimated duration/distance.			
2.1.5	Estimated total catch & discards (by species).			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.2 Mapping & Description of Proposed Fishing Areas				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.2.1	Maps at appropriate resolution showing proposed fishing areas.			

¹ Also refer to Section 6 on the BFIA.

Part 2: Core Content — 2.2 Mapping & Description of Proposed Fishing Areas				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.2.2	Maps overlay: historically fished areas, known/predicted VMEs, bathymetry, seamounts/canyons/etc.			
2.2.3	Baseline description includes seabed type, past fishing, topographic features, VME evidence.			
2.2.4	GIS files provided to Secretariat in compatible format (where possible).			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.3 Impact Assessment				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.3.1	Scoping identifies hazards (e.g., gear impact, gear loss/ghost fishing) per UNGA/FAO.			
2.3.2	Risk assessment method for combining criteria is transparent and documented.			
2.3.3	Four risk criteria evaluated: (1) Intensity, (2) Duration, (3) Spatial Extent, (4) Cumulative Impact.			
2.3.4	Intensity defined per BFIA: None / Low / Medium / High (p.11).			
2.3.5	Overall risk level assigned (Low/Medium/High) with operational definitions applied (p.11–12).			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.3 Impact Assessment				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.3.6	Gear impact evaluated using Hierarchy of Bottom Fishing Impacts (Annex A.7, Table A1): footprint × effort × likelihood × degree of impact.			
2.3.7	VME interactions addressed: likelihood, extent, intensity, habitat vulnerability, biodiversity loss, spatial/duration/cumulative impacts, ghost fishing.			
2.3.8	All assumptions (esp. data gaps) clearly documented.			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.4 Status of Deep-Sea Stocks				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.4.1	List of target & likely bycatch species provided.			
2.4.2	Tables/figures of historic catches & CPUE trends (nominal or standardised).			
2.4.3	Results of surveys or stock assessments (if available).			
2.4.4	Discussion of stock vulnerability (e.g., slow growth, late maturity, low fecundity — per Annex A.3).			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.5 Monitoring, Management & Mitigation				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.5.1	Measures explicitly linked to risks identified in §2.3.			

Part 2: Core Content — 2.5 Monitoring, Management & Mitigation				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
2.5.2	VMS details: reporting frequency, accuracy, compliance with SIOFA Data Standards.			
2.5.3	Catch/effort/bycatch reporting systems described and compliant with SIOFA standards — including discards & VME encounter reporting.			
2.5.4	Observer coverage: level, design, data collection per SIOFA Observer Data Standard.			
2.5.5	VME encounter protocol aligns with Annex B: (a) indicator taxa list (e.g., scleractinians, antipatharians, stylasterids, crinoids); (b) quantitative thresholds; (c) move-on rules (2nm for trawls, 1nm for longlines); (d) reporting procedure.			
2.5.6	Effectiveness of mitigation measures evaluated (e.g., risk reduction modelling, per Penney & Guinotte 2013).			

Report of the 11th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Annex E - Checklist for SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA) evaluation according to the SIOFA BFIA Standard

Part 3: New Fisheries (Apply only if 1.6 = YES)				
#	Checklist Item	Rationale from proponent	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
3.1	Expected (not historical) effort, catch, duration, etc., provided; commitment to update with actual data post-fishing.			
3.2	Predictive approaches used for VME risk (e.g., habitat models); all assumptions documented.			
3.3	Stock status inferred from comparable fisheries or proxy data.			
3.4	Precautionary measures include: (a) effort/catch limits; (b) spatial closures/move-on; (c) trigger for reassessment; (d) regular stock review.			

Part 4: Overall Considerations (SC Use Only)			
#	Checklist Item	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
4.1	Cumulative impacts of participant's vessels in Agreement Area assessed.		
4.2	BFIA meets the SIOFA BFIA.		
4.3	All data sources, methods, assumptions, and knowledge gaps		

Report of the 11th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Annex E - Checklist for SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (BFIA) evaluation according to the SIOFA BFIA Standard

Part 4: Overall Considerations (SC Use Only)			
#	Checklist Item	Scientific Committee evaluation	Notes
	clearly documented.		

Scientific Committee recommendations (SC to complete)

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] BFIA and **Agreed** that the document is consistent with the BFIA Standards, with the following requested modifications (*to be added if necessary*):

-
-

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] BFIA and **Recommended** that a small working group [led by xxx and composed of xxx] meet post SC and to provide additional advice on the proposal, noting that the work is likely to extend intersessionally and would be expected to result in a revised proposal being provided to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. Aspects of the proposal which are currently deficient in respect to the BFIA Standards include

-
-

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] BFIA and **Agreed** that the proposal was **lacking critical information** in several important areas and was not consistent with the SIOFA BFIA Standards. The SC noted that the BFIA in its current form would require substantive modification to ensure that sufficient information would be available to enable the SC to evaluate the long-term impacts of the fisheries described.

Annex F- SC11 indicative workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies

This harvest strategy workplan aims to outline the steps that need to be taken for the adoption of a harvest strategy for each species. It sets out a deliberately ambitious schedule of technical work and MoP decision making for the development of harvest strategies across the key stocks. The workplan is intended to be a living document and will be updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.

It is acknowledged that delays in the execution of the workplan may occur, noting the complexity of developing harvest strategies for multiple species within the multilateral SIOFA environment as well as the capacity of member CCMs to understand and participate fully in the process. For this reason, all parties are cautioned against an expectation that harvest strategy elements will be completed in specific years. Completion dates are likely to change in the future.

There is a very important need for capacity building to allow CCMs to understand and participate fully in the harvest strategy development process and ultimately to have confidence that an adopted harvest strategy is an agreeable balance of their objectives. This is particularly so as SIOFA starts to consider the multispecies nature of fisheries and how management procedures may interact.

The SC has considered the range of reports from consultants as part of the precautionary approach to management projects (SC11-31,32,33 and 34). The SC supported the adoption of the management framework outlined in SC-11-31, which outlines a range of management approaches depending on the status and data availability of each stock.

The MoP will need to consider the outcomes of the series of PAM projects and should consider adopting a precautionary approach framework in the form a CMM by 2029 to help guide the development and adoption of harvest strategies in SIOFA. Given SIOFA has limited resources, it is unlikely that SIOFA will have the ability to develop and thoroughly test management procedures for all species. Therefore, strong consideration should be given to adopting existing management procedures where these have been developed for the same or similar species elsewhere. For example, CCAMLR has a well developed management regime for toothfish that SIOFA could formally adopt those decision rules without further testing. Similarly, there are many well tested orange roughy decision rules adopted by several jurisdictions in the world that could be considered.

During the technical work outlined below, the MoP should give consideration to the broader governance framework associated with SIOFA Management Procedures and ensure that they are fit for purpose and consistent with the available SIOFA resources. This should

include accounting for the special needs of SIDS and ensuring they are included in all stages of management procedure development and implementation.

The table below is an example and indicative only of the type of activities that could occur.

Year	General SC Aspects	Orange roughy	Toothfish	Alfonsino	Oilfish	Squid	MoP
2026	<p>Present preliminary PAM results to MoP13</p> <p>Consolidate PAM reports</p> <p>PAM guidance turned into one operational reference document</p> <p>Harmonise terminology</p> <p>Progressive implementation starting with main SIOFA stocks</p>	<p>MoP confirm target and limit reference points</p> <p>MoP to consider possible management framework (eg catch based, effort based, boat limits).</p>	<p>MoP confirm target and limit reference points</p> <p>MoP to keep the CCAMLR-aligned toothfish pathway</p>	<p>MoP confirm target and limit reference points</p> <p>MoP to consider possible management framework (eg catch based, effort based, boat limits).</p>			<p>Consider and potentially endorse the SC11 overall direction and work programme</p> <p>Take note and support resourcing needs</p> <p>Do not yet adopt any PAM based outcomes</p>
2027	<p>Formal stock classification table (documented stock-by-stock information gaps, and fishery-specific data collection plans)</p> <p>Pilot case low information stocks (i.e. snappers on the Saya de Mahla bank)</p>	<p>SC to consider candidate management procedures (MP, e.g., modified hockey stick rule outlined in SC-11-33)</p> <p>MoP to adopt MP for orange roughy</p>	<p>SC to continue to apply the CCAMLR decision framework for DCR, WR and SIR</p> <p>SC to monitor CCAMLR changes to the framework</p>	<p>SC to complete stock assessment</p> <p>SC to consider candidate management procedures (e.g., modified hockey stick rule outlined in SC-11-33) for MSE evaluation</p>	<p>SC to recommend reference points based on standardised CPUE</p> <p>MoP to consider reference points</p>		<p>Take note and support resourcing needs</p>

Report of the 11th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Annex F - Indicative workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies

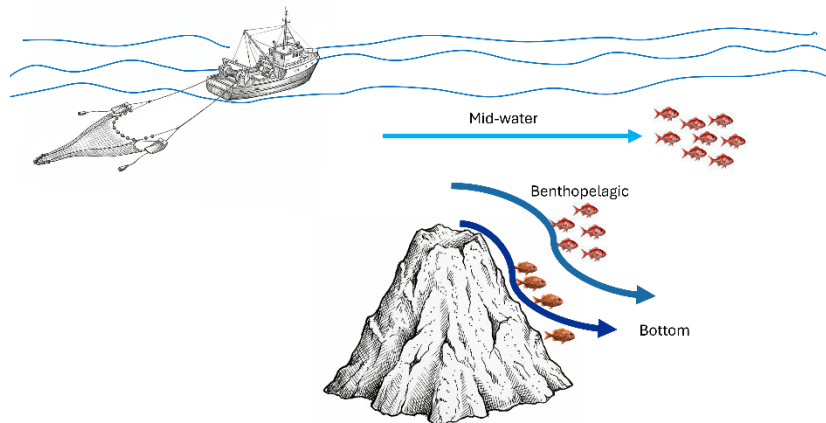
Year	General SC Aspects	Orange roughy	Toothfish	Alfonsino	Oilfish	Squid	MoP
				MoP to decide if MSE evaluation is required			
2028	First stock specific pilot testing on main stocks	SC to undertake stock assessment and apply MP (check year)	Keep toothfish aligned with CCAMLR	SC to agree operating model(s) for MSE	SC to consider candidate MPs e.g., those suggested in SC-11-33		Take note and support resourcing needs
	Operationalise the framework for very low- or zero information stocks						
	Prepare for the first management endorsement	Continuing working on stock indicators and break out rules		MoP to consider if MSE testing is required			
	Green/Amber/ Red response system.	Rules for alternative approaches if full MP are not yet feasible					
2029	Translate the framework into a formal implementation instrument - Umbrella PAF CMM			SC MSE of candidate MPs			First formal implementation package in force
	Drafting of a harvest- strategy CMM, including classification and transitions between classifications			MoP to decide preferred MP			Precautionary- management provisions for the main fisheries
							Adopt the SIOFA PAF
							Endorse the next formal review cycle

Report of the 11th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Annex F - Indicative workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies

Year	General SC Aspects	Orange roughy	Toothfish	Alfonsino	Oilfish	Squid	MoP
2030	Review and normalise workflow into SC and Secretariat activities	SC to review application of MP	SC to review application of MP	SC to apply MP			MoP to implement catch limit

Annex H- Benthopelagic trawl definition and description



Definition and description

A benthopelagic trawl is trawl gear flown close to the seabed, typically between 6-50 meters, that does not have sustained seabed contact but infrequent unintended seabed contact can occur. The nets are configured with the otter boards operating off the seabed, used to target benthopelagic species — principally alfonso (*Beryx splendens* and *B. decadactylus*) — that aggregate in the water column above and alongside features such as seamounts, ridges and knolls. The otter boards are a high-aspect hydrodynamic design capable of operating stably off the seabed. The trawl net flies above the substrate. Otherwise, the trawl and otter boards resemble those of a single boat mid-water otter trawl, with lightweight ground gear that is unsuitable for use on hard substrates and is unable to maintain sustained bottom contact.

Fishing vessel and handling equipment

The vessels used are large factory stern trawlers, typically 68–74 m in length, capable of extended voyages of up to ten weeks. They are equipped with fast powerful winches to handle the towing warps (steel cables), net drums for handling bridles and nets, and A-frames or derricks for recovering otter boards and codends. A critical feature of benthopelagic winches is high speed pay-away to chase fast diving species. Acoustic net-monitoring sensors are standard equipment, providing real-time data on net opening, headline height, and the proximity of the gear to the seabed, enabling the skipper to precisely position the trawl relative to detected fish aggregations and bottom topography. Low frequency echo sounders (e.g., Simrad ES80, Furuno FCV) are used to find and identify target fish aggregations in deep water.

Fishing operations

The fishery usually operates on known tow lines around seamounts. At the seamount prior to setting, the skipper locates the fish acoustically and assessed whether the bathymetry permits safe gear deployment. Because of the high and fragility of the trawl gear, skippers are risk-averse and will only set when safe to do so. Towing is characterised as "*aimed trawling*" - the gear is set to intercept an identified aggregation rather than towed blindly in the hope of encountering fish.

Deployment proceeds by unwinding the net drum and releasing the codend, paying out the net body as the vessel steams slowly ahead, followed by the bridles and sweeps. The otter boards are then

connected and deployed; being of hydrodynamic design, they fly off the seabed at the appropriate scope. The scope ratio is typically less than that used in conventional bottom otter trawling. Real-time sensors monitor otter board elevation throughout the tow. Towing speed is generally more than 2.5 knots. Tow duration is usually 30-45 mins.

At the end of the tow the trawl is retrieved in reverse order of deployment and the codend is hauled aboard or lifted by winches. The near-absence of benthic bycatch in this fishery is consistent with the rarity of net-to-substrate contact during normal operations.

Annex I- Preliminary algorithm for SIOFA data base re-assignment of gear type (suggested column header- Derived_gear_type)

This algorithm describes the steps to assign a trawl set to a derived trawl gear type (midwater, benthopelagic, bottom trawl) for SIOFA catch-effort logbook data.

The algorithm is applied at the set level catch-effort database for all trawl sets for CCPs logbook data, excluding the Saya de Malha Bank.

Currently the set_haul column geardetailTrawlStrata includes: "MTW"; "BTW"; "BOTTOM"; "MIDWATER"; "Bottom"; NA; and "MIDDLE".

Step 1

1. If the catch for the set records escolar or hapuka then assign the set to **mid-water trawl**;
2. Else if the catch for the set records cardinal fish or ruby fish, then assign the set to **benthopelagic trawl**;
3. Else if the set contains orange roughy assign the set to **bottom trawl**;
4. Else assign it to unknown.

Review whether the results distinguished by the SIOFA fishery data according to the two steps above are appropriate.

If a set is unknown, then proceed to step 2.

Step 2

Midwater trawls - trawls where all these criteria are met:

- the tow speed is 3 knots or less;
- tow duration is more than 45 mins;
- net height is more than 50m above the seafloor at both the start and end of the set.

Benthopelagic trawls - trawls where all these criteria are met:

- the tow speed is 2.5 knots or more;
- tow duration is less than or equal to 45 minutes;
- net height is greater than 6 m and less than or equal to 50m above the seafloor at the start of the set.

Bottom trawls - trawls where all these criteria are met:

- the tow speed is 2.5 knots or more;
- tow duration is less than or equal to 45 minutes;
- net height is 5m or less above the seabed at the start or end of the set.

Annex L- Checklist for SIOFA Fishing Operation Plan (FOP) evaluation by the Scientific Committee

Last revised at SC11 in 2026

Succinct Description

Any CP or CNCP or PFE (CCP) seeking to permit a vessel that flies its flag to fish in an exploratory fishery, or to fish in an exploratory fishery with a gear type that has not been used in that fishery for the previous ten years to submit no less than 30 days prior to the next annual meeting of the Scientific Committee a detailed description of their intended Fisheries Operation Plan for evaluation by the SC.

CCP	
Area	
Target Species	
Proposed Methods of Fishing	
Proposed Maximum Catch / Effort Limit	
Expected Operation Period	
Submission date	

Scientific Committee Assessment Checklist And Recommendations

This checklist is for the Scientific Committee to complete to ensure that all aspects of the Fisheries Operation Plan and the Data Collection and Analysis Plan have been assessed.

To assist the Scientific Committee with their deliberations, please pre-fill the Rationale column with a brief justification of how your Fisheries Operation Plan and Data Collection and Analysis Plan address the Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will complete the Assessment column.

The checklist should be prepared by the proponent and submitted as part of the Fishing Operation Plan submission to the Scientific Committee.

Fisheries Operation Plan checklist

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale from proponent	Assessment by SC
a) A clear objective for the fishery stated in the FOP.		
b) The FOP includes explicit target, limit and/or threshold reference points.		
c) Method for evaluating the stock trends against the reference points is clearly stated.		
d) An appropriate precautionary catch and/or effort limit is included.		
e) Catch/effort limit(s) are spread over areas or will be undertaken in a manner that ensures exploration and is not focused consistently fishing in one small area.		
f) The FOP includes an assessment of the cumulative impacts of all fishing activities in the area of the exploratory fishery.		
g) The FOP includes and evaluation of the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem including specific risk assessments for SSI, teleost bycatch, shark bycatch and VME impacts.		
h) If the Data Collection and Analysis Plan is carried out as proposed it will result in sufficient information to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice could be provided.		

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale from proponent	Assessment by SC
i) The degree to which the approach outlined in the FOP is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of the Agreement.		
j) If a Fisheries Operation Plan proposes any bottom fishing activities, advice and recommendations in accordance with CMM 01(2025) (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) ¹ .		
k) The FOP is clear on whether any operations are foreseen within the boundaries of SIOFA Benthic Fishery Closures (CMM 18(2025)) and, if yes, what form those operations will take		

Data Collection and Analysis Plan checklist

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale from proponent	Assessment by SC
a) A description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data are included and are sufficient to address the questions raised in the FOP Checklist, items c, e, f, g and h.		
b) The dates by which the data must be provided to the MoP are included.		

¹ The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the MoP on:

- i. Whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
- ii. Whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.
- iii. Whether this proposal overlaps with an existing bottom fishing footprint.

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale from proponent	Assessment by SC
c) A plan is included for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery 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 impact.		
d) Where appropriate, the FOP includes 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, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts.		
e) The FOP includes a description of the planned analyse of catch and effort data including CPUE, catch distribution of the target and bycatch species; biological analysis including, length, age, growth maturity of target species; environmental impact analysis; VMEs impact assessment (if appropriate); and target species stock delineation. Including a time frame for these assessments ² (that is when will data be analysed and available for SC review).		

² Noting that the SC should get annual updates on activities undertaken by the exploratory fishery, but this task is regarding a full analysis of the data, which should be completed prior to any proposed roll-over the exploratory fishery.

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale from proponent	Assessment by SC
f) The FOP includes an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities (that is how long do you expect the fished stock to show a stock response to the fishing activities).		

Scientific Committee recommendations (SC to complete)

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection and Analysis plan and **Agreed** that the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure that the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of the Agreement, with the following requested modifications (*to be added if necessary*):

-
-

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and **recommended** that a small working group [led by xxx and composed of xxx] meet post SC and to provide additional advice on the proposal, noting that the work is likely to extend intersessionally and would be expected to result in a revised proposal being provided to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. Aspects of the proposal which are currently deficient include

-
-

Or:

The SC discussed the [insert CCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection and Analysis Plan and **agreed** that the proposal was **lacking critical information** in several important areas and was not consistent with the SIOFA exploratory fisheries objectives. The SC noted that the Fisheries Operational Plan in its current form would require substantive modification to ensure that sufficient information would be available to enable the SC to evaluate the long-term potential and impacts, of the proposed exploratory fishery, and to ensure that the fishery resources would be developed on a precautionary and gradual basis as required by the CMM.

Annex M- SC11 technical revisions to the CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) Annex 1

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.	Australia, Cook Islands

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
		Underwater topographic features in SIOFA sub-areas 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5 and 6.	
Brushtooth lizardfish and scads	Single boat otter board trawl	Designated <u>bottom</u> fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
	Paired trawls <u>Trawl (nei)</u>	Designated <u>bottom</u> fishing footprint of Thailand.	Thailand
Shallow water (<200m), Carangoides spp., snappers, emperors and groupers	Bottom trawl <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
	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) s Snappers, 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	<u>SIOFA Subareas 1, 3b 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 <u>Subareas 1, 4, 7 and 8</u> Area	China

Annex O- SIOFA Scientific Committee Workplan 2026-2030

1. SIOFA SC Workplan (2026–2030)

1.1 Recurring (annual) activities

A number of recurring annual activities are planned for each year. These include requests from the MoP and Scientific Committee for papers to be submitted to the Scientific Committee or MoP annual meetings. These are listed in Table 2.

Table 1: Recurring (annual) activities

Summary Title	Lead	Provider	Notes
Proposed 3-5 yr. Scientific Committee workplan	SC Chair	SC Chairs committee	This paper
Review of VME indicator taxa list	SC	SC Delegations	When requested by CCPs
Annual report of VME encounters	Data Officer	Secretariat	Secretariat summary on any VME encounters have been submitted by CCPs
Annual review of VME encounters	SC	SC	
Summary of SIOFA data	Data Officer	Secretariat	Secretariat summary of the available data at SIOFA, including a scheme of the linkages in the database
Update fisheries overview	Science Officer	Secretariat	Secretariat fisheries overview report
Update ecosystem summary	Science Officer	Secretariat	Secretariat ecosystem summary report
Update fisheries summaries	Science Officer	Secretariat	Secretariat fisheries summaries reports. Note that there are different timelines for each species
FAO FIRMS data update	Science Officer	Secretariat	Update of the SIOFA fisheries factsheets

1.2 SC11 Secretariat tasks

Task	Assigned to
In future, highlight year-on-year changes in the Guidelines when first presented to the SC; add SC-driven changes using tracked changes.	Science Officer
Make the revised Guidelines (SC-11-INFO-01-Rev1) available on the SIOFA website.	Data Officer
Include all CCP-submitted data in future catch reporting, including tuna and billfish, regardless of IOTC reporting.	Science Officer
Identify tuna and billfish catches separately in reports to distinguish them from other species.	Science Officer

Task	Assigned to
Add extraction metadata to all datasets from the SIOFA databases: date and person responsible, source database(s), time and spatial range, fisheries and taxa covered, and any filters or selections applied.	Data Officer
Work with CCPs to obtain species-level reporting for catches currently reported at the TUN (tuna nei) and BIL (billfish nei) aggregate level.	Data Officer
Make a public version of the Overview of SIOFA Fisheries 2026 (SC-11-14-Rev2), with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website (pending MoP endorsement).	Science Officer
Include relevant BFC VMS assessment results (time spent and activity by vessel type and flag) in the 2027 Overview of SIOFA Fisheries.	Science Officer
Make a public version of the Ecosystem Summary 2026 (SC-11-15-Rev2) available on the SIOFA website (pending MoP endorsement).	Science Officer
Continue updating the implementation status of data and security audit recommendations; provide a similar report at each future SC meeting.	Data Officer
Develop a formal Scientific Data Management and Conservation Policy and consider establishing a Scientific Data Information System (SDIS) for SIOFA-related research activities.	Both Science and Data Officers
Harmonise the logbook files for data collection and the template for data submission. Implement cell format and validation improvements.	Data Officer
Continue collecting historical data on pelagic fisheries within the SIOFA Area.	Both Science and Data Officers
Make the age data submission template (Annex F) available to CCPs intending to submit age data.	Data Officer
Work with CCPs to review historical mid-water trawl records in the SIOFA databases using the benthopelagic trawl classification algorithm (Annex G) and reclassify records as	Data Officer

Task	Assigned to
benthopelagic or bottom trawl as necessary. This reclassification must be completed before the next alfonsino and orange roughy stock assessments.	
Provide an updated version of the algorithm to SC12 along with a summary of the effects of utilising the algorithm to re-classify trawls in the database.	Data Officer
Forward the definition and description of benthopelagic trawls to the FAO for consideration of the establishment of a new code and fishery gear definition. The SC preliminarily suggested that these could be BP or BTP.	Science Officer
When notified by the authors that the ageing workshop research papers have been published, inform CCPs.	Science Officer
Replace the current restricted ALF-2024-01 Project Report with the published version and change the classification to "public" once the scientific publication process is complete.	Science Officer
Apply systematic QC to CCP-reported toothfish data, covering: (a) spatial location of fishing activities; (b) consistency of fishing effort; (c) reported locations of tagged fish (release and recapture); (d) tag data (text, colour, number) for releases and recaptures; (e) tag-overlap statistics; and (f) confirmation that all tagging data collected before December 2020 have been transmitted and incorporated in the SIOFA database.	Data Officer
Update the DC, SIR and WR trend analyses for SIOFA toothfish annually and present the updated analysis to SC12	Science Officer
Develop a method paper detailing the calculation of toothfish trend analysis rule catch limits, based on CCAMLR paper WG-FSA-2025/01 and SIOFA's interpretation, for review at SC-12.	Science Officer
Make a public version of the Fisheries Summary: Toothfish 2026 (SC-11-16-Rev2), with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website (pending MoP endorsement).	Science Officer
Whenever the MoP adopts new management areas, provide updated data tables split by the new areas in the subsequent iteration of the toothfish fisheries summary.	Science Officer

Task	Assigned to
Circulate the working draft of the Fisheries Summary: oilfish (<i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i>) and escolar (<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>) 2026 to CCPs following SC-11 close and report finalisation, inviting further revisions and comments.	Science Officer
Make a public version of the Fisheries Summary: oilfish and escolar 2026 available on the SIOFA website, if there are no or only minor revisions during the intersessional review (pending MoP endorsement).	Science Officer
Receive skate tagging data as part of the 2026 data submission (on 2025 fishing activities) and present the information at SC-12.	Both Science and Data Officers
Continue to report IOTC bycatch for species managed by SIOFA.	Science Officer
Submit the SIOFA BFCs to the World Database on MPAs and OECMs — pending MoP decision on whether to task this.	Data Officer
SC Chairperson and Science Officer to work intersessionally with FAO on an appropriate approach for reporting SIOFA stock status categories to the FAO	Science Officer
The Secretariat to update the SC Works and Projects page on the SIOFA website	Science Officer

1.3 SC focus topics planned for SC meetings

Focus topics are special agenda items where the SC invests some extra time and might invite experts to provide additional information.

For 2027 (SC12), the SC has identified the following focus topics:

- Focus session on Precautionary Approach and Management (Harvest Strategies)
- Development of ETP species
 - Methodology: Under which criteria species should be included, the taxonomic rules,
 - Data sources: Enlarging the sources of the inputs (Nansen outcomes, other SIOFA scientific research outcomes SC-11-29) or the role played by the SIOFA ecosystem summary info; before removing all invertebrates, could we see how it compares with our VME taxa list or other invertebrate reported by observers or other reports?; SIOFA database compatibility and cross checking of current info gathered in the Secretariat.

Table 2: SC Workshops planned for the 2026-2027 period.

Workshop code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Hours	Funding source
WS2026-OBS	FR-OT (Nicolas Gasco/Charlotte Chazeau)	SIOFA observer manual workshop		4	
WS2026-IPA	SC Chair (Alistair Dunn)	Implementation of the SIOFA precautionary approach workshop	1200 € (rapporteur)	8 (2 days, end 2026/early 2027)	MoP
WS2026-HSS	SC Chair (Alistair Dunn)	Joint SIOFA MoP-SC harvest strategies workshop	600 € (rapporteur)	4 (late April-early May 2027)	MoP
WS2026-CLI	AUS (Trent Timmiss)	SIOFA Climate Change Assessment Tool Test workshop	600 € (rapporteur)	4	MoP
WS2026-DAT	FR-OT (Alexis Martin)/ SC Chair (Alistair Dunn)	SIOFA scientific data management framework workshop	600 € (rapporteur)	4	MoP

2. Projects in the 2026-2030 Workplan

Projects that were planned at the last SC and have been already initiated are listed in Table 1. Note that some of these could be ongoing projects in subsequent years.

Projects that were planned at the last SC and that could be initiated in the upcoming years are listed below in Tables 5-9.

Table 3: 2026 projects in the SC11 workplan, including SC11 prioritization.

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status	Priority
TOT-2024-02	EU (Sebastian Rodriguez Alfaro)/FR-OT (Alexis Martin)	Evaluation of the toothfish monitoring program based on tagging	In kind	National funding	Completed	
DWS-2024-02	EU (Roberto Sarralde)	Development of protocols and guidelines for fishing gear to mitigate the ongoing impact of SIOFA fisheries on vulnerable deepwater sharks	In kind	National funding	Completed	
DWS-2024-01	EU (Roberto Sarralde)	Development of a formal quantitative assessment of Portuguese dogfish catch and determination of the level of sustainable catch (a continuation of DWS-2023-01)	In kind	National funding	In progress	
ALF-2025-01	JPN (Takehiro Okuda)	Alfonsino age and growth	11,000 €	MoP	(25,000 € Budgeted in 2025)	
DWS-2026-01	AUS (Trent Timmiss)	Investigation of distribution of deepwater sharks for use in ecological risk assessments	In kind	National funding	Planned	
ALF-2026-01	JPN (Takehiro Okuda)	Alfonsino stock assessment (was formerly scheduled for 2025)	50,000 €	MoP	Planned	7.29
DAT-2026-01	COK (Stephen Brouwer)	Retrieving Old SIOFA Secrets (ROSS) SIODFA Historical Data Archive project	10,000 €	MoP	Planned	6.57
VME-2026-01	FR-OT (Alexis Martin)	Post-Processing of VME Imagery collected during the EAF-Nansen Programme – Common Oceans Deep-Sea Fisheries Project	25,000 €	MoP	Planned	4.86

Table 4: 2027 planned projects in the SC11 workplan (black) including those that will be developed and prioritized at SC12 (red).

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status	Priority
HSS-2027-01	TBD	Development of precautionary approach framework and management procedures for alfonsino and other primary SIOFA species including stock monitoring and the evaluation of performance indicators	40,000 €	MoP	TBD	TBD
OIL-2027-01	TPE (Ching-Ping Lu)	Update on the oilfish/escolar CPUE	In kind	National funding	TBD	TBD
SAI-2027-01	TBD	Development of management options for preventing SAIs on VMEs with a focus on the precautionary approach, spatial management measures, move-on rules, and identifying risks for determining appropriate measures	25,000 €	MoP	TBD	TBD

Table 5: 2028 planned projects in the SC11 workplan (black), including those that will be developed and prioritized at SC12 (red).

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status	Priority
OBS-2028-01	TBD	Documentation describing how the SIOFA scientific observer program is structured and run	5,000 – 10,000 €	MoP	TBD	TBD
BYC-2028-01	AUS (Trent Timmiss)	Bycatch definitions	15,000 €	TBD	Planned	TBD
ORY-2028-01	COK (Stephen Brouwer)	Orange roughy acoustics	30,000 €	MoP	TBD	TBD
ORY-2028-02	COK (Stephen Brouwer)	Orange roughy ageing	40,000 €	MoP	TBD	TBD

Table 6: 2029 planned projects in the SC11 workplan (black), including those that will be developed and prioritized at SC12 (red).

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status	Priority
ORY-2029-01	COK (Stephen Brouwer)	Orange roughy stock assessment (2028-2029)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
BFCA-2029-01	TBD	BFC monitoring (evaluate the impact of the closures)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

3. Projects in the following years

BFC-2033-01: Review of any new information that has come to light from the BFCs to be presented to SC in 2034 as required by the CMM

Annex P- SIOFA Scientific Committee Budget 2027-2029

Budget forecast for 2027-2029

Scientific budget proposal 2027-2029

The Executive Secretary, as mandated by MoP8's paragraph 194, has developed an updated provisional three-year plan (2027-2029) for the Secretariat's expenses related to the Scientific Committee and its working groups. The proposed budget adheres to Regulation 3 of the Financial Regulations of the Meeting of the Parties and has been estimated in euros.

Item 3: Meeting Support – Scientific Committee and Working Groups

- In 2027, SC12 may be hosted in Mauritius or in La Réunion.
- A break-down of the estimated costs can be found in Table 2.

In 2028 and 2029, the location for the SC and WGs have yet to be determined and may be held in any Contracting Party or failing that, in Réunion.

Table 2: Predicted Costs for Meeting Support – SC and WGs (Item 3)

	2027	2028	2029
3.1 Venue, Catering	35,000 €	38,000 €	40,000 €
3.2 Secretariat travel and accommodation	18,000 €	18,900 €	20,000€
3.3 Support staff (rapporteur etc.)	13,600 €	14,300 €	15,100 €
3.4 SCC Travel and Accommodation	13,900€	14,600 €	15,350 €
3.5 Video installation	8,000 €	8,000 €	8,000 €
Item 3 Total	88 500 €	93 800 €	98 450 €

Item 3.1 (Venue, catering)

- The price for 2028 and 2029 will vary depending on the location of the meetings, however based on the cost for previous years and preliminary scoping conducted by the Executive Secretary. It is estimated that the price will be approximately 35 000 € increasing each year of 5 % due to the inflation and the rate change.

Item 3.2 (Secretariat travel and accommodation for meetings)

- For 2026, the price of economy travels and accommodation for three SIOFA staff members in Fremantle has been assessed to 18,000€ and should be expensed at 80%

For 2027 to 2029, the price will vary depending on the location of the meetings, however the Executive Secretary recommends a budget at same level for 2027 of 18 000€ then a budget increasing of 5 % due to the inflation and the rate change for 2028 and 2029. Item 3.3 (Support staff)

- Support staff include a rapporteur and eventually, assistants. This is estimated to cost approximately of 13 650 € for 2027, based on previous years.

Item 3.4 (SC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson travel and accommodation)

- The cost of travel and accommodation for the SC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be covered if they are from a developing country or if the SC Chairperson is under contract. These costs are estimated to 13 230€ for 2027. This could be paid, if the MoP agree, from the reserve fund.

Item 3.5. (Video installation)

MOP10 decided to avoid hybrid meetings as far as possible, to encourage face-to-face meetings and limit the high cost of hybrid meetings.

However, a video stream for SC was made to allow scientific consultants to present their work to the Scientific Committee without incurring travel costs to SIOFA. This also allowed non-participants to observe the meeting. This process involves the supply of technical equipment, excluding a permanent maintenance team. The cost of the audio-video installation alone is estimated at €10,000, based on previous years.

Item 9: Contracts for Specific Services

The Scientific projects for 2027-2029 are detailed in the SC-11-20-Rev1 SIOFA-Scientific-Committee Workplan with the estimated cost associated.

The estimates for costs listed under Item 9 are given below (Table 3).

Table 3: Predicted Costs of Contracts for Specific Services (Item 9)

	2027	2028	2029
9.1 Research activities	€71,000	€65,000	€95,000
9.2 SC Chairperson ¹	€44,000	€46,000	€46,000
9.3 Consultant/ expert/ service outsourced ²	€10,000	€10,000	€10,000
Item 9 Total	€125,000	€121,000	€151,000

Item 9.1 (Research activities)

- This budget line is dealt with by the SIOFA SC and approved by the SIOFA MoP

¹ The MoP12 decided to renew the role of SC Chairperson for 2 years starting in August 2025 and ending in July 2027 for an amount of 44 000 € / year

² Planned for the recruitment of short-term experts or outsourced to a specialised local company able to support the Secretariat, on specific issue that could scientific, but also lawyer or informatic or any support need by the Secretariat .

- The 2027 budget covers the SC projects starting in October 2026, and the estimated cost of research activities is € 71,000. The proposed budget, if adopted by the MoP13, may fund the projects ALF-2026-01, DAT-2026-01, VME-2026-01.
- As above, the 2028 budget should cover the SC 2027-2028 projects, and the estimated cost of research activities is € 65,000. The proposed budget may fund the projects ALF-2027-01, OBS-2027-01 and OBS-2027-02 for a current total amount of 60,000 € (TBC by SC11)
- For 2029, the 2029 budget should cover the 2028-2029 SC projects, and the estimated cost of research activities has been assessed by the SC11 to € 95 000

Item 9.2 (SC Chairperson)

- This budget line is dealt with and approved by the SIOFA MoP.

Item 9.3 (Consultant/Expert/Service Outsourced)

This budget line is dealt with and approved by the SIOFA MoP. Costs for contracting services that are not mandatory scientific in nature are estimated at 10,000€ for each year. These expenses have not been observed during the previous years as they have been covered by other budget sources, but may be maintained, if Secretariat has to face to this sort of expenses during the year.