



SIOFA | APSOI

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

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

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

MoP-13-30

Draft Plan on the research cruise of China for 2026-2027 survey year

Delegation of China

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>As a contracting party of SIOFA, China intends to make contributions to the scientific research for the SIOFA managed species and associated ecosystem and environment. This paper introduced the basic information for the research cruise to be carried out in 2026-2027 survey year. Based on high seas resource cruises from 2023 to 2026, China will continue to conduct scientific surveys in the SIOFA area from October 2026 to March 2027 in the area of 16° S-10° N and 60° E-68° E. The purpose of the survey is to gain a preliminary understanding of the species composition and quantity distribution of swimming organisms, plankton, fish eggs, and juvenile fish in the surveyed waters; grasp the physical marine environmental characteristics of the surveyed waters; and analyse the components of the pelagic marine ecosystems in the surveyed waters.</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

It is recommended that the MoP:

- understand the purpose and plan of China's research cruise in the high seas of the SIOFA area, which is to collect scientific data for the research of SIOFA species and its environment and marine ecosystems.
- **note** on the draft plan on the research cruise.

Draft Plan on the research cruise of China for 2026-2027 survey year

Yue JIN, Yongchuang SHI

Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science, China

East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science, China

Introduction

According to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement states, the functions of the SC shall be to encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge of the state of the fishery resources [ARTICLE 7 - SUBSIDIARY BODIES 1 (a) (ii)].

As a contracting party of SIOFA, China has always made commitment for the contribution to sustainable use of fishery resources on the high seas and conservation of associated ecosystem. Fishery independent survey is the key activity currently being undertaken by China in the SIOFA area.

The purposes of the survey are to:

- gain a preliminary understanding of the species composition and quantity distribution of swimming organisms, plankton, fish eggs, and juvenile fish in the surveyed waters
- gain the physical marine environmental characteristics of the surveyed waters
- analyse the composition of the pelagic marine ecosystems in the surveyed waters
- analyse the environmental drivers and resource status of the biomass fluctuations of major fishery species

Relevant background information

China has for the first time conducted a scientific research cruise in SIOFA area in the late of 2023, and continuously conduct surveys each year after 2023. China reported the preliminary survey results in SC10 and SC11. In MoP12, China presented the new plan of research cruise in 2025-2026(MoP-12-50), and has completed all the cruises in February 2026. The report of this cruise will be submitted in SC12.

Schedule

China informs the MoP about the plan of scientific survey to undertake following subject:

(1) The survey content mainly includes:

- 1) investigation of pelagic fishery resources;
- 2) biological environment investigation;
- 3) non biological environmental investigation;
- 4) investigation of the impact of pollutants on marine life.

(2) The planned survey period is from October 2026 to March 2027, with approximately 130 survey stations arranged at equal intervals of $1 \times 1^\circ$. Survey area locates in the sea areas of 16° S - 10° N and 60° E - 68° E in the SIOFA Convention area (SIOFA subarea 8).

(3) The vessels have not been determined yet. For each vessel, it is expected to have a total capacity of 60 people.

(4) Each vessel will be equipped with three types of operations: pelagic trawl, squid jigging fishing and longline fishing.

Note on Appendix A

The draft work plan has been undergone an expert consultation and authorised by the fishery authority of China.

APPENDIX A

The research cruise of China
Draft work plan
(2025-2026 survey year)

Lead country

China will complete this research cruise.

Research vessel (preliminary)

The vessels planned for research cruise have not been determined yet. The following research vessel information and parameters are for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026:

The research vessels' names were Lanhai 101 and Lanhai 201 (Figure 1). These two vessel parameters are the same. The total length of the vessel is 84.50 meters, with a total tonnage of 2883 tons, a range of 10000 nautical miles, self-sustaining capacity of 60 days, wind resistance of 12 levels, economic speed of 12 knots, maximum speed of 15 knots, and a total capacity of 60 people. The main engine power is 2720 kilowatts. Each vessel has three types of operations: pelagic trawl, squid jigging fishing, and longline fishing.



Figure 1 Research vessel "Lanhai 101"

Both are research vessels, belonging to Yellow China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science (Lanhai 101) and East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Science (Lanhai 201) respectively,

Survey period

October 2026 to March 2027 (preliminary)

Survey location

Survey locations will be in the areas of 16° S-10° N and 60° E-68° E in the SIOFA Convention area (SIOFA subarea 8).

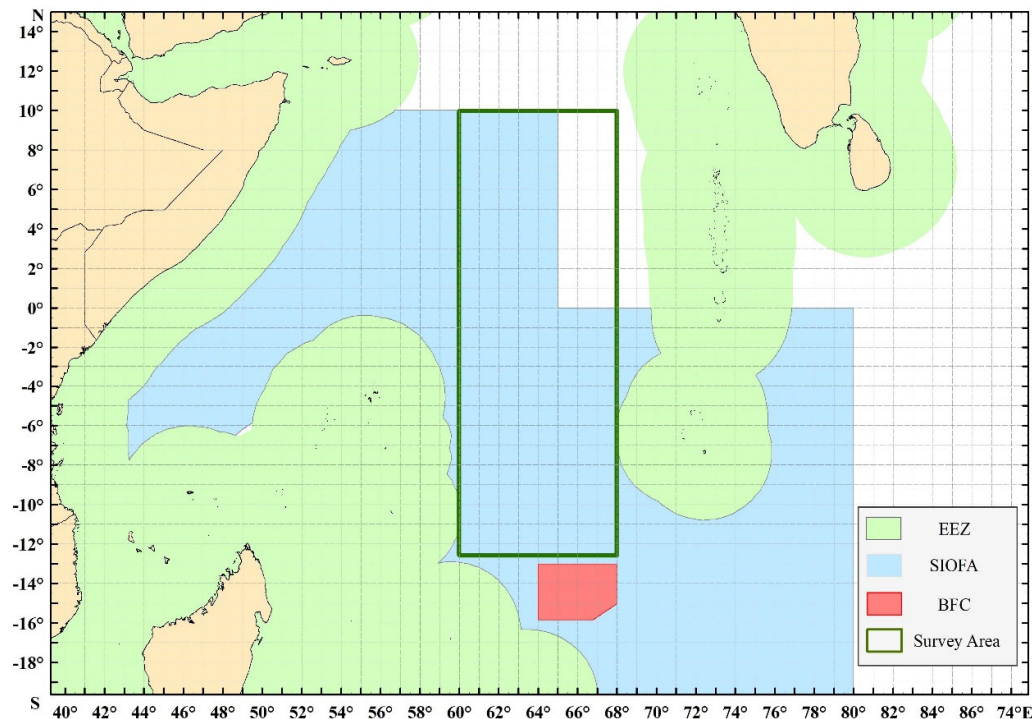


Figure 2 Draft survey area in the SIOFA Area

Note: all survey stations are located in the high sea of the Indian Ocean

Other issue

In the 2024 Annual National Report of China, it was mentioned that the China has carried out fishery investigation activities for the SIOFA area using these two scientific research vessels in 2023-2024, and reported on this matter at the SC10 meeting. In SC10, we submitted the 2023-2024 research cruise report in detail. The main survey data in 2023 has been submitted to the secretariat at the end of May 2024 and the survey data for the 2024-2025 research cruise has been submitted before MoP11. In the 2025 Annual National Report of China, it was mentioned that the China has carried out fishery investigation activities for the SIOFA area using these two scientific research vessels in 2024-2025, and reported on this matter at the SC11 meeting. In SC11, we submitted the 2024-2025 research cruise report in detail. The main survey data in 2024-2025 has been submitted to the secretariat at the end of April 2025 and the survey data for the 2025-2026 research cruise has been submitted before MoP11.

China noted that, during a single scientific research cruise in the western Indian Ocean, research vessels may enter and leave the SIOFA Area multiple times due to survey design and operational requirements. To simplify procedures while maintaining transparency, China suggested that reporting should be required only upon the first entry into and the final exit from the SIOFA Area for a single voyage. Additionally, highlighting practical difficulties in arranging bunkering and resupply through SIOFA-registered vessels due to their limited availability in the relevant subregion, China suggested permitting scientific research vessels to receive such services from non-registered vessels, subject to prior notification to the SIOFA Secretariat. China has addressed this issue in both SC11 and CC10.