



SIOFA | APSOI

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

Report of the 13th Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles

6–10 July 2026

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting	5
1.1 Opening statements	5
1.2 Practical arrangements for the meeting	5
1.3 Admission of observers	5
1.4 Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.....	6
1.5 Participation in decision-making.....	6
Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements	6
2.1 Adoption of the agenda	6
2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents	6
2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs	8
Agenda item 3 – Intersessional Decision-Making	8
3.1 Review of intersessional decisions taken since MoP12.....	8
Agenda item 4 – Compliance Committee (CC) and report of the CC10	8
4.1 Presentation of the report of the 10 th Compliance Committee	8
4.2 SIOFA Compliance Report (SCR).....	8
4.3 Listing of IUU fishing vessels	8
4.4 Recommendations from the Compliance Committee on current SIOFA CMMs.....	9
4.5 Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS.....	9
4.6 Other recommendations from the Compliance Committee	10
Agenda item 5 – Scientific Committee (SC) and Report of the SC11.....	11
5.1 Presentation of the report of the 11 th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11)	12
Agenda item 6 – Climate change	22
6.1 Identification of advice required from Scientific Committee on the implications of climate change on SIOFA fisheries	22
Agenda item 7 – New and Exploratory Fisheries	22
7.1 New Fisheries.....	22
7.2 Exploratory Fisheries.....	22
7.3 Scientific Research.....	22
Agenda item 8 – Data access and dissemination	25
8.1 Data and security audits implementation update	25
8.2 Review of the criteria and process by which papers are classified and implications for the RoP	26
Agenda item 9 – Interim bottom fishing measures	26
9.1 States or fishing entities that became CCPs before the MoP in 2017 – revision to measures established under CMM 01(2025)	26
9.2 States or fishing entities that became CCPs after the MoP in 2017 – approval of measures pursuant to paragraph 28 of CMM 01(2025).....	26
Agenda item 10 – Review and amendment of Conservation Management Measures (CMMs) currently in force	26
Agenda item 11 – New Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)	32
Agenda item 12 – Capacity building needs for developing states	38
12.1 Technical assistance needed for the implementations of obligations	38
12.2 Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building need of CCP developing States	38

Agenda item 13 – Secretariat administration	39
13.1 Report on the Secretariat activities (since MoP12)	39
13.2 Financial status	40
13.3 SIOFA Budget	41
Agenda item 14 - Cooperation with other RFMOs, international bodies and other relevant instruments	42
14.1 Cooperation with CCAMLR, RFMOs and other international organisations	42
14.2 Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)	43
14.3 Cooperation with FAO	46
Agenda item 15 – Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs).....	47
15.1 Renewal of CNCP status.....	47
Agenda item 16 – Future Chairing arrangements	47
16.1 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SC.....	47
16.2 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee	47
16.3 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties.....	48
Agenda item 17 – Any other business	48
17.1 2025 Nansen Survey in the SIOFA Area	48
Agenda item 18 – 2026 meeting arrangements	48
Agenda item 19 – Report adoption.....	49
Agenda item 20 – Meeting closure	49

List of Annexes

Annex A	Welcome statement from the Honourable Principal Minister, Mr Wallace Cosgrow, Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy
Annex B	Opening Speech by Ms Anaïd Panossian, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties
Annex C	List of registered participants
Annex D	Status of the Agreement
Annex E	Adopted Agenda
Annex F	List of Meeting Documents
Annex G	Final SIOFA Compliance Report
Annex H	SIOFA IUU Vessel List
Annex I	Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and SIOFA VMS SSPs
Annex J	SC11 Indicative workplan HS
Annex K	SIOFA-ISSP
Annex L	SIOFA Meeting Document Framework
Annex M	Amendment to-CMM 11 (2020) Compliance Monitoring Scheme
Annex N	Amendment to CMM 15 (2025) Demersal Stocks (Toothfish)
Annex O	Amendment to CMM 15 (2025) Demersal Stocks (Orange Roughy)
Annex P	Amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2015) New and Exploratory Fisheries
Annex Q	SC Technical amendments to CMM 02(2025) Data Standards
Annex R	Proposal for a new resolution on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement
Annex S	Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement
Annex T	SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations
Annex U	SIOFA Budget 2027, 2028-2029 Forecast

Agenda item 1 – Opening of the meeting

1.1 Opening statements

1. The 13th Meeting of the Parties (MoP) was held at Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles.
2. The Honourable Principal Minister, Mr Wallace Cosgrow, Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, made a welcome statement (**Annex A**).
3. The Chairperson of the MoP, Ms Anaïd Panossian (France, on behalf of its Overseas Territories (OT)), made an opening statement (**Annex B**) and declared the meeting open at 9:20 a.m.
4. The Chairperson opened the floor for delegation introductions. The list of participants is available in **Annex C**.

1.2 Practical arrangements for the meeting

5. The Executive Secretary, Mr Thierry Clot, welcomed the participants attending in person and online and thanked them for their continued commitment to the work of SIOFA. He also thanked the Government of Seychelles for its generous hospitality in hosting the meeting and for organising the cultural tour at the weekend. The Executive Secretary then explained the practical arrangements for the meeting.

1.3 Admission of observers

6. The Executive Secretary introduced a communication from Korea. Korea wished to inform the MoP that due to internal circumstances and a scheduling conflict, it would not be able to participate formally in the 10th meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) and MoP13; rather a delegate would connect remotely, without intervening in the meeting, solely to follow the proceedings and monitor the progress of discussions. Korea further wished to inform the MoP that its absence is without prejudice to its right to express its views on any matters discussed or outcomes reached during the meeting and that neither its absence nor its remote connection should be construed as Korea's express agreement to, or endorsement of, any decision, conclusion, or other matter agreed during the meeting.
7. The MoP welcomed the Observers present at the meeting, which included Comoros and India as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs), as well as Sri Lanka, South Africa, the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Deep-Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), the Deep-Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), the Joint Commission of the Seychelles-Mauritius Joint Management Area (JMA), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
8. The Joint Commission of the JMA stated that Mauritius and Seychelles have sovereign rights on the living and non-living resources on and below the seabed in the JMA, that it will work closely with SIOFA to avoid any confusion or conflict, and that, with goodwill and respect, this unique situation can be managed without major problems.
9. Sri Lanka presented MoP-13-INFO-16, which provided an overview of Sri Lanka's fisheries sector and an expression of Sri Lanka's interest in cooperation with SIOFA. As Sri Lanka's fisheries primarily target species that are outside the mandate of the IOTC, it recognises the importance of engaging with SIOFA to ensure that these fishing activities are managed within the appropriate regional fisheries management framework. Sri Lanka has established comprehensive fisheries management systems and is committed to science-

based fisheries management, effective monitoring, transparency, and compliance with international obligations. Sri Lanka informed the MoP that it was in the process of completing the necessary national procedures and aims to formally submit its application to become a CNCP to SIOFA in the near future.

10. France (OT) pointed out that its *OSIRIS-II* patrol vessel has been conducting patrol activities in the Agreement Area and that it sighted Sri Lankan fishing vessels. The patrol vessel could not communicate with the Sri Lankan vessels. France (OT) encouraged the Sri Lankan authorities to ensure that their vessels are easily reachable and accessible in accordance with SIOFA's high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) programme.
11. Sri Lanka offered to share any relevant information with France (OT).
12. The EU noted that Sri Lanka operates a large number of vessels that are targeting SIOFA species, including on the high seas in the Agreement Area. The EU expressed its position that Sri Lanka should therefore apply to become a contracting party (CP) of SIOFA, rather than applying to become a CNCP, which would not be sufficient to fulfil all of Sri Lanka's obligations under the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA).

1.4 Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

13. The FAO is the Depositary of the Agreement. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the Status of the Agreement in MoP-13-INFO-03 (**Annex D**). The Executive Secretary confirmed that there are 10 CPs, 1 Participating Fishing Entity (PFE) and 5 signatories, including 2 CNCPs.
14. **The MoP NOTED the Status of the Agreement.**

1.5 Participation in decision-making

15. The Executive Secretary reported that all CPs and PFEs had paid their contribution for 2026. Therefore, all CPs and PFEs were entitled to participate in the taking of decisions during this meeting.

Agenda item 2 – Administrative arrangements

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

16. The Chairperson presented the provisional agenda (MoP-13-ADM-03).
17. The MoP agreed to add "Research cruise planned for Saya de Malha" as agenda item 7.3.2.
18. The MoP agreed to add "Discussion on the CC ToRs" as agenda item 4.6.1.
19. The MoP incorporated the above revisions and adopted the agenda (**Annex E**).

2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents

20. The Chairperson informed the MoP that the list of meeting documents is presented in MoP-13-ADM-04 (**Annex F**).
21. The Executive Secretary informed the MoP that paper MoP-13-32, a proposal from France (OT) for a new Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) related to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), had been submitted late.
22. The Chairperson noted that the same paper had been submitted to the CC. She noted that the CC had agreed to accept the paper, despite its late submission, noting that it relates to the important matter of the BBNJ Agreement, and had held substantive discussions on it.
23. The MoP similarly agreed to accept paper MoP-13-32, despite its late submission, and noted that the paper had been revised and further developed following CC10 (MoP-13-32-Rev1).
24. The EU commented on MoP-13-INFO-02. The EU noted that according to the paper, the

number of vessels operating squid fisheries in the Northwest Indian Ocean would have increased from 30 vessels in 2015 to 361 in 2025. In relation to this, the EU noted paragraph 294 of the 11th Scientific Committee (SC11) report, which provided an overview of biological research on squid caught by China in the Northwest Indian Ocean. The paragraph states that China has fished for squid since the early 21st century both in and beyond the SIOFA Area, often using squid-jigging and light-seining gears. It also states that China intends to collect more data for Indian Ocean squid and conduct more research, including analysis of statoliths and stock assessments, and to share the results with the SC. The EU also noted paragraph 299 of the SC11 report, which states 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, and as such, the MoP may wish to consider whether there are any potential management implications. Based on this, the EU was of the position that the continued extraction of squid in the Northwest Indian Ocean, even if it is outside the SIOFA Area, could have a severe impact on the squid population of SIOFA. The EU also noted paragraph 270 of the MoP10 report, which states that China reiterated its intention to bring its authorised squid-fishing fleet in the Northwestern Indian Ocean, adjacent to the Agreement Area, under the management of a regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable utilisation of fishery resources in this region.

25. The EU noted that apart from issues related to squid, MoP-13-INFO-02 also mentioned many alleged human rights violations. The EU believed that these allegations warranted investigation by the flag State.
26. In light of the above points, the EU recommended that the MoP request that China undertake the following:
 - a. Investigate whether any fishing activity by light seiners has taken place within the Agreement Area at any time.
 - b. Bring relevant information to the SC and to the next MoP on Chinese catches of squid in the Northwest Indian Ocean, considering this is part of the same stock as in SIOFA.
 - c. Voluntarily share the results of the investigation on all the other allegations in the report with SIOFA and the IOTC.
27. China acknowledged the concern expressed by the EU and the EJP. China stated that it is investigating the case and takes the allegations seriously. However, it pointed out that the incident occurred outside the Agreement Area and that there is therefore no explicit legal basis for sharing catch data and investigation outcomes with SIOFA. China stated that RFMOs only have a mandate to require CCPs to share data from inside their areas of jurisdiction, that it considers this to be a matter under the purview of the IOTC, and that it will therefore share the results of its investigation of the matter with the IOTC, not SIOFA. China also noted that it has fished for squid for many years and that SIOFA has neither expressed interest in, nor requested information from, these fisheries. China suggested that as SIOFA is cooperating with the IOTC, it could seek to exchange information with the IOTC on this matter as necessary.
28. The EU reiterated its view that these fisheries, while occurring outside the Agreement Area, are still very much of relevance for SIOFA, considering these are fisheries of a SIOFA species. The EU noted paragraph 294 of the SC11 report again and welcomed the Chinese offer stated in the paragraph to collect more data and to share the results of its analysis of statoliths and stock assessments with the SC. The EU noted that China did not wish to voluntarily share the findings of its investigation in SIOFA and expressed its intention to

take up this matter bilaterally with China.

29. China pointed out that it conducts scientific research cruises and shares these data with the SC each year. China reiterated its view that the MoP should not have substantive discussions on this issue. China remains open to bilateral exchange with the EU on this matter and, where appropriate, sharing relevant information.
30. The MoP agreed that it would not discuss MoP-13-INFO-02.

2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs

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

Agenda item 3 – Intersessional Decision-Making

3.1 Review of intersessional decisions taken since MoP12

32. The Executive Secretary summarised the intersessional decision taken since MoP12, as described in MoP-13-INFO-07. Intersessional decision 2025-I concerned the MoP's support for the establishment of a part-time Data Officer position and the recruitment of a part-time technician under the General Service category to undertake tasks related to information and communication technologies (ICT). Ms Hansa Gennoo was recruited as an ICT Expert in February 2026.
33. **The MoP NOTED the summary of intersessional decisions taken since MoP12.**

Agenda item 4 – Compliance Committee (CC) and report of the CC10

4.1 Presentation of the report of the 10th Compliance Committee

34. The CC Chairperson, Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius), presented a summary of the report of CC10, which was held at Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, on 1–3 July 2026. The CC10 report is available as MoP-13-17.
35. The MoP reviewed the advice and recommendations of the CC10 report.

4.2 SIOFA Compliance Report (SCR)

36. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 40 of the CC10 report regarding the CC's adoption of the provisional Compliance Report (pSCR).**
37. The Compliance Officer, Mr Johnny Louys, presented the pSCR adopted by the CC, as described in MoP-13-18 and outlined the decisions of the CC10 on the provisional compliance status for each CCP, for review by the MoP.
38. **The MoP ADOPTED the final SIOFA Compliance Report outlined in Annex G.**

4.3 Listing of IUU fishing vessels

39. The Compliance Officer presented the Provisional IUU Vessel List (MoP-13-16), explaining that no vessels had been proposed for inclusion on the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list.
40. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 130 of the CC10 report that no vessels had been proposed for inclusion on the draft SIOFA IUU vessel list.**
41. **The MoP NOTED the CC's recommendation in paragraph 132 of the CC10 report and ENDORSED the proposed modifications to the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List to reflect the most recent changes from other RFMOs, as shown in CC-10-04-Rev1 (MoP-13-04-Rev1).**
42. **The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 133 of the CC10 report that the MoP remove *FU HSIANG FA* from the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List based on the vessel's removal from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) IUU Vessel List in 2024.**
43. **The MoP AGREED to remove *FU HSIANG FA* from the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List.**
44. **The MoP ADOPTED the SIOFA IUU Vessel List (Annex H).**
45. **The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 134 of the CC10 report and AGREED**

that the CC's proposed changes to the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List be made with immediate effect after adoption by the MoP.

4.4 Recommendations from the Compliance Committee on current SIOFA CMMs

46. The MoP NOTED paragraph 47 of the CC10 report regarding potential ambiguities in the current wording of CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures (BFCs)) and the scope of application of paragraph 6 of the CMM. The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 5.1.5.
47. The MoP NOTED paragraph 49 of the CC10 report that the introduction of a new definition for benthopelagic trawls (proposed under paragraph 209, SC11 Report) may have ramifications for CCPs interpreting the applicability of CMMs and NOTED the CC's request for clarity as to which CMMs would apply to benthopelagic trawls, if this new definition were adopted. The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 5.1.5.
48. The MoP NOTED the CC's endorsement, in paragraphs 56 and 57 of the CC10 report, of the SC's proposed amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) (Annex D, SC11 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
49. The MoP NOTED paragraph 63 of the CC10 report regarding China's proposal to amend CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) (Annex E, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
50. The MoP NOTED paragraph 69 of the CC10 report regarding Mauritius' proposal to amend CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) (Annex F, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
51. The MoP NOTED paragraph 78 of the CC10 report regarding Mauritius' proposal for an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
52. The MoP NOTED paragraph 80 of the CC10 report regarding Australia's proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) (Annex H, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
53. The MoP NOTED paragraph 86 of the CC10 report regarding the EU's proposal to amend CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) (Annex I, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
54. The MoP NOTED paragraph 94 of the CC10 report regarding Japan's proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex J, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.
55. The MoP NOTED paragraph 97 of the CC10 report regarding Mauritius' proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex K, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.

4.5 Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS

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

56. On behalf of the Chairperson of the SIOFA VMS Working Group (VMS-WG), Ms Fiona Harford, the Compliance Officer presented MoP-13-10, which provided an update on the progress made by the VMS WG since MoP12. The VMS WG held four intersessional meetings, which resulted in the following conclusions: adoption of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA VMS, completion of work related to the consideration of the use of the SIOFA VMS for the submission of entry and exit notifications, and review of CMM 16(2025) (VMS) in relation to possible amendments to the North Atlantic Format (NAF) messages data elements in Annex 2 of the CMM and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS standards, specifications and procedures (SSPs). Following the recommendations put forward by the Selection Panel for the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat completed the procurement process for the SIOFA VMS,

which resulted in the awarding of a contract to Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) as the provider of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) VMS services to SIOFA for a period of thirty-six (36) months, commencing in January 2026. CLS has undertaken the set-up of the SIOFA VMS and provided training to SIOFA staff in the use and administration of the system. The Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System was also completed and the detailed outcomes are described in MoP-13-INFO-01. Based on the outcomes of the pilot phase, the VMS is considered to be operationally ready for its entry into operation, subject to endorsement of the CC and the MoP, and automated entry and exit reporting under the SIOFA VMS is considered to be technically feasible, under certain conditions. In addition, the Secretariat successfully completed a second scoping mission concerning the VMS of other RFMOs, this time with the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Secretariat.

57. **The MoP NOTED the progress made by the VMS WG towards the operationalization of the SIOFA VMS.**
58. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 150 of the CC10 report and AGREED on the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, immediately after the conclusion of MoP13.**
59. The MoP expressed its appreciation to the VMS WG for its efforts, to Ms Fiona Harford for her leadership as the VMS WG Chairperson, and to the Secretariat, particularly the Compliance Officer, for their support for the work to establish and enter the SIOFA VMS into operation.
60. The MoP also expressed its gratitude to the European Union for providing substantial funding to support the development and pilot of the SIOFA VMS.
61. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to continue closely monitoring the operation of the VMS, including any technical, operational, or implementation issues that may arise as additional parties and vessels come online, as well as to provide annual reports to the CC and the MoP on the operation and performance of the VMS.**

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

62. On behalf of the VMS WG Chair, the Compliance Officer presented MoP-13-11-Rev2, which provided potential amendments to CMMs and the SIOFA SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS as discussed by the VMS WG. He explained that the CC had developed the original VMS WG proposal further and recommended that the MoP adopt the latest version of the proposal.
63. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 156 of the CC10 report and ADOPTED the amendments to CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring), CMM 16(2025) (VMS), and the SIOFA VMS SSPs to support the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS (Annex I).**

4.6 Other recommendations from the Compliance Committee

64. The Compliance Officer explained that pursuant to paragraph 5 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) the CC and the MoP are required to review any other recommendations made by the MoP in the previous years' Final Compliance Reports. The Compliance Officer presented MoP-13-09, which provided the status of the implementation of the recommendations of MoP12 on the SIOFA Final Compliance Report (fSCR), as updated by CC10.
65. **The MoP NOTED the status of the implementation of the recommendations from MoP12 outlined in MoP-13-09.**
66. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 102 of the CC10 report regarding China's proposal for a new CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area (Annex L, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 10.**

67. The MoP NOTED paragraph 109 of the CC10 report regarding the Cook Islands' proposal for a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework (Annex M, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 11.
68. The MoP NOTED paragraph 113 of the CC10 report regarding the EU's proposal for a new CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel in the SIOFA Area (Annex N, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 11.
69. The MoP NOTED paragraph 117 of the CC10 report regarding the EU's proposal for a new CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area (Annex O, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 11.
70. The MoP NOTED paragraph 124 of the CC10 report regarding France (OT)'s proposal for a new CMM on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (Annex P, CC10 Report) and held further discussions under agenda item 11.
71. The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 128 of the CC10 report for an SC review of encounter thresholds.
72. The MoP NOTED paragraph 158 of the CC10 report regarding the renewal of Comoros' CNCP status and held further discussions under agenda item 15.
73. The MoP NOTED paragraph 162 of the CC10 report regarding the renewal of India's CNCP status and held further discussions under agenda item 15.
74. The MoP NOTED paragraph 174 of the CC10 report regarding potential options for addressing capacity needs related to compliance and straddling themes and held further discussions under agenda item 12.
75. The MoP NOTED paragraphs 175 and 176 of the CC10 report regarding the recruitment of a consultant to prepare a Capacity Building Action Plan and held further discussions under agenda item 12.
76. The MoP NOTED paragraph 179 of the CC10 report regarding the CC's input and the current status of the implementation plan for the SIOFA Performance Review Panel recommendations and held further discussions under agenda item 13.1.1.
77. The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 190 of the CC10 report to reduce the default duration of CC meetings from three days to two days and held further discussions under agenda item 18.

4.6.1 Discussion on the CC ToRs

78. The MoP considered the CC's discussions in paragraphs 185–189 of the CC10 report regarding the streamlining of the CC's work, the division of functions between the CC and the MoP, and the potential need to amend the CC's terms of reference (ToR).
79. **The MoP AGREED that the CC's work could be streamlined so as to focus only on recommendations and proposals that have compliance-related aspects. The MoP NOTED that this could require an amendment to the ToR and that any proposal to amend the CC's ToR would need to be submitted to the next CC and MoP meetings. The MoP encouraged CCPs to develop proposals to amend the CC's ToR, if appropriate, and AGREED that, in the meantime, the CC could already implement the streamlined approach in practice.**
80. Pew expressed support for the proposed streamlining of the CC's work and discussions, while urging CCPs to allow some flexibility so as to enable the CC to be able to discuss any SC recommendations or CCP proposal that contains compliance aspects, even if they were not initially identified as being relevant to the CC by the SC or the proponent.
81. **Following its review, the MoP ADOPTED the CC10 report.**

Agenda item 5 – Scientific Committee (SC) and Report of the SC11

5.1 Presentation of the report of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11)

82. The SC Chairperson, Mr Alistair Dunn, presented a summary of the report of SC11, which was held in Fremantle, Australia, on 23–31 March 2026. A summary of the recommendations and relevant annexes of the SC11 report is available as MoP-13-05-Rev1.

5.1.1 Fisheries reports

83. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 61 of the SC11 report, NOTED the revised guidelines for the Submission of Annual National Reports given in SC-11-INFO-01-Rev1, and TASKED the Secretariat to make it available on the SIOFA website.**
84. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 71 of the SC11 report, ENDORSED the Overview of SIOFA Fisheries 2026 (SC-11-14-Rev2), and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.**
85. The MoP considered the request in paragraph 75 of the SC11 report for clarification on the scope of the application of paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) and whether reporting requirements for vessels engaging in fishing within a BFC applied to all fisheries or only bottom fisheries.
86. Several CCPs were of the view that CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) primarily applies to bottom fisheries, as stated in paragraph 2 of the CMM. However, they considered that the reporting requirements under paragraph 6 applied to all vessels conducting fishing activities in a BFC and that the reason for such reporting is the need to understand any activities occurring in or around the BFC. These CCPs acknowledged that there is some ambiguity in how the CMM is currently written and suggested that a footnote could be added to paragraph 2 to clarify that it applies to all paragraphs except paragraph 6.
87. Chinese Taipei considered that CMM 18(2025) applied to bottom fisheries only and that it would therefore be inappropriate to treat paragraph 6 as applying to all fisheries.
88. The MoP held further discussions on CMM 18(2025) under agenda item 10.
89. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 79 of the SC11 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Ecosystem Summary 2026 (SC-11-15-Rev2), and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it available on the SIOFA website.**
90. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 277 of the SC11 report, ENDORSED the SIOFA Fisheries Summary: Toothfish 2026, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it, with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.**
91. **The MoP AGREED that going forward, the SC need not seek the endorsement of the MoP for the Overview of SIOFA Fisheries, SIOFA Ecosystem Summary, and individual fisheries summaries it develops, nor for tasking the Secretariat to make public versions of them, with any confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.**
92. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 284 of the SC11 report regarding the oilfish fisheries summary, NOTED that there had been only minor revisions to the working draft during the intersessional review process, ENDORSED the Fisheries Summary: oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*) and escolar (*Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*) 2026, and TASKED the Secretariat to make a public version of it available on the SIOFA website.**

5.1.2 Data Standards, Access and Dissemination

93. **The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 124 of the SC11 report to amend CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards).**
94. The MoP held further discussions on the proposed amendments under agenda item 10 and requested that the Secretariat prepare a separate document with the proposed amendments for transparency and to facilitate the MoP's review.
95. **The MoP recalled its previous discussions on the process for considering amendments to**

CMMs proposed by the SC and NOTED that there has been a lack of clarity. The MoP AGREED that:

- a. the Secretariat should not submit proposals for amending CMMs to the MoP,
- b. the SC could recommend proposed amendments to CMM language and should submit them to the MoP as part of the SC report and recommendations, rather than as a proposal paper by the SC,
- c. the MoP may need to review any amendments proposed by the SC to a CMM in an independent document before adoption,
- d. the Secretariat may, at the request of the MoP, extract the proposed amendments from the SC report and recommendations and present them, on behalf of the SC, in a separate document for the MoP's review.

5.1.3 SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment

96. The MoP NOTED paragraph 136 of the SC11 report and NOTED the Scientific Committee Checklist for SIOFA BFIA Evaluation according to the SIOFA BFIA Standard.

5.1.4 SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM)

97. The SC Chairperson introduced MoP-13-INFO-09, which provided an overview of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) and the SC's related recommendations. The SIOFA PAF was developed by the SC in response to Recommendation 10 of the 2023 SIOFA Performance Review. It provides a consistent, science-based system for managing fisheries across SIOFA's diverse portfolio, built around three components: information classification, three-zone stock status, and tiered management procedures. SC11 endorsed the Framework and made a number of recommendations to the MoP, including its formal adoption and an indicative workplan for implementation.
98. The PAM Project consultant, Ms Kerrie Robertson (Adira Consulting), provided a detailed overview of the draft Precautionary Approach Framework for the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), delivered under Project PAM-2024-01. The Framework was designed around five principles: scientific rigour, future-proofing, covering the whole SIOFA portfolio of fisheries, equity activation, and clear governance. The Framework comprises two interrelated documents: a Conceptual Framework setting out the policy architecture and Technical Guidelines providing an operational manual for implementation. The Framework draws on international literature and comparable frameworks from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Canada, Australia, and New Zealand where relevant, while recognising that no existing framework fully addresses SIOFA's context. The Framework has been designed to fulfil SIOFA's obligations under Article 4(c) of the Agreement, which requires the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with the 1995 Agreement and the FAO Code of Conduct. It directly addresses recommendations from the SIOFA Performance Review and provides a structured basis for the MoP to discharge its functions under Article 10. The Framework is built around three integrated components: an Information Classification System that categorises stocks into four tiers (High, Medium, Low, and Zero Information) based on data quantity, quality, and breadth; a Three-Zone Stock Status System (Green, Amber, and Red) that defines management responses relative to biological reference points; and a tiered Management Procedure system (Tier 1: full quantitative; Tier 2: simplified empirical; and Tier 3: qualitative / knowledge-based, which is a novel approach) providing operationally feasible approaches across the full spectrum of SIOFA's fisheries. A key design feature of this Framework is the explicit and substantive treatment of low- and zero-information stocks as the operational norm for SIOFA rather than as peripheral cases. The Technical Guidelines operationalise each component of the

Conceptual Framework, including guidance for each tier of management procedures, and alternative management arrangements if no management procedure is possible. The Technical Guidelines include a novel operational checklist that translates information classification criteria into assessable indicators. The checklist is designed to support consistent, evidence-based classification while retaining the expert judgement essential for a portfolio as diverse as SIOFA's. Given the tool's novel nature and the significant variation across different species and fisheries types, the checklist itself requires review by the SC before application to specific stocks. If the Framework were to be adopted, or adopted in principle, it would represent a direction of travel, not a requirement to implement everything at once. The aim of the Framework is to provide a principled, documented, proportionate response to every stock in the portfolio, within the limits of resources and information available.

99. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 163 of the SC11 report and NOTED 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.**
100. The MoP thanked the consultants for their comprehensive and high-quality work.
101. The MoP thanked the EU for funding this valuable work.
102. The Secretariat informed the MoP that more details about the SIOFA-PAM projects are available at <https://siofa.org/eu-grants/SIOFA-PAM>; the PAM-2024-01 project page is available at <https://siofa.org/science/sc-works/PAM-2024-01>; and the final PAM-2024-01 project report is available at https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/sc_works/SIOFA-PAM-2024-01-Final-Report.pdf.
103. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 165 of the SC11 report and ENDORSED the principles of the SIOFA PAF, noting that it would be premature to fully adopt the SIOFA PAF before further discussions by the SC and the MoP.**
104. **The MoP ENDORSED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 167 of the SC11 report and AGREED to endorse the indicative workplan for the adoption of management procedures (Annex J); develop a detailed workplan with clear tasks, timelines, and responsibilities; and regularly update the workplan, including with input from the SC.**
105. **The MoP NOTED the request in paragraph 168 of the SC11 report and AGREED that the level of resourcing that is envisioned for the development and adoption of management procedures is likely to be similar to the current level and REQUESTED the SC to take this into account when developing its procedures.**
106. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 169 of the SC11 report and:**
 - a. **ENDORSED 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 MoP13,**
 - b. **TASKED the SC to work in conjunction with the Secretariat at the workshop on SIOFA-PAM-related work and at SC12 to develop a template for presenting SC advice to the MoP,**
 - c. **ENDORSED the holding of a one-day MoP-SC joint workshop between the SC and the MoP in 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,**
 - d. **TASKED the MoP Chairperson and the SC Chairperson to develop ToRs for the MoP-SC joint workshop well in advance of the workshop,**
 - e. **TASKED the Secretariat to ensure that documents are submitted well in advance**

to the MoP-SC joint workshop and ensure that the documents are very clear in what they are recommending and what input and decisions are being sought from managers.

107. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 170 of the SC11 report and NOTED the SC's intention to delay the implementation of management procedure-related work for 12 months and to identify key parts of any consultancy starting in 2027–2028, if required.**

5.1.5 Stock assessments and advice

108. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 209 of the SC11 report and NOTED the definition and description of benthopelagic trawls in Annex H of the SC11 report.**

109. Australia supported the new definition and its use to reclassify midwater trawl where benthopelagic trawl gears are flown close to the seabed and have occasional and unintentional contact with the bottom. Australia considered this to be a good example of SIOFA applying more accurate and nuanced definition to the gear types used in SIOFA.

110. Mauritius noted that the definition and description developed by the SC was very long and technical and could be confusing. Mauritius suggested that a gear definition would typically be shorter and simpler.

111. The Cook Islands explained that the SC had developed the definition and description in this particular format because it is the format used by the FAO, that the definition draws specifically from language in the FAO's existing definitions for midwater and bottom trawls, and that the definition of benthopelagic trawls is inherently complicated as it is in-between these two types of gear. The Cook Islands acknowledged that perhaps SIOFA could also have a shorter, informal definition of benthopelagic trawl fishing for use in communication with fishers.

112. SIOFA supported the differentiation between true midwater trawling and benthopelagic trawls and pointed out that its members have always fished in these two different ways. SIOFA noted that the core characteristic of a benthopelagic trawl is trawling with a midwater net diving toward the seafloor, which has an intrinsic risk of interacting with benthic organisms. For this reason, SIOFA members have never fished in the BFCs, or the prior BPAs. SIOFA suggested that a shorthand definition of benthopelagic fishing for CCPs could be "trawling with a midwater net diving toward the sea floor".

113. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 213 of the SC11 report and AGREED to reclassify any mid-water trawl using the algorithm agreed by the SC (Annex I, SC11 Report) where benthopelagic trawl gears are flown close to the seabed, typically between 6–50 metres, and do not have sustained seabed contact but infrequent unintended seabed contact can occur (as further elaborated in Annex H, SC11 Report).**

114. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation, in paragraph 216 of the SC11 report, to prohibit the conducting of benthopelagic trawls in the SIOFA BFCs as this gear may occasionally contact the sea bottom.**

115. Japan noted that the analysis of benthopelagic trawls was only recently presented to SC11 and that further scientific refinement of the algorithm by the SC is likely. Japan noted that the priority, at this stage, in using the algorithm should be to improve SIOFA's understanding of benthopelagic trawls and their characteristics. Japan further noted that the primary purpose of the use of the algorithm to reclassify mid-water trawls, as discussed at the SC, was to aid stock assessment and catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) standardisation and Japan supported its use for this purpose, while noting that further consideration is needed before determining the implications for CMMs. At the same time, Japan recognised the importance of the precautionary approach and supported the SC's recommendation to prohibit the conducting of benthopelagic trawls in BFCs in principle based on the

- precautionary approach until such a time that the SC advises otherwise.
116. The MoP convened a small benthopelagic working group for the discussion and consideration of MoP-13-INFO-23, an information paper prepared by the Secretariat at the request of CC10. The paper highlighted the existing CMM paragraphs for which there may be implications of the new definition if midwater trawls are reclassified as benthopelagic trawls and prohibited within BFCs as bottom fishing gear. Following its discussions, the working group provided an update to the MoP.
 117. **The MoP NOTED the working group provided input to the Secretariat for a revision of MoP-13-INFO-23.**
 118. **The MoP NOTED the working group considered the definition of bottom fishing in CMM 01(2025) paragraph 3b and that it suggested that this definition did not apply to benthopelagic trawl, which does not have sustained deliberate bottom contact with the seafloor.**
 119. **The MoP NOTED that the working group recognised the importance of the precautionary approach and suggested that although benthopelagic trawl was not a bottom fishing method, it did have unintended seabed contact and should be considered in the development or update of BFIA's.**
 120. **The MoP NOTED that the working group suggested a BFIA for benthopelagic trawling should not be retrospectively applied to CCPs.**
 121. **The MoP NOTED that the working group reiterated the SC advice that benthopelagic trawling should not occur in BFCs, until such time as the MoP has received a recommendation from the SC.**
 122. **The MoP NOTED that the working group further recognised that the SC's definition (SC11 Annex H) and algorithm to distinguish benthopelagic trawl is likely to be further refined and CCPs may need additional time to understand the application of the algorithm.**
 123. **The MoP NOTED that the working group recommended, to support the implementation and in the interest of the precautionary approach, that the MoP prohibit the conducting of all trawl methods in the SIOFA BFCs until such time the MoP has received a recommendation from the SC based on the testing of the benthopelagic assessment algorithm.**
 124. **The MoP NOTED that the working group suggested that the MoP task the Secretariat with further developing a document assessing the implications of the new definition on existing CMMs and provide it to SC12 and CC11, with consideration of their role, and MoP14 for consideration.**
 125. **To support implementation and in the interest of the precautionary approach, the MoP AGREED to prohibit the conducting of all trawl methods in the SIOFA BFCs until such time the MoP has received a recommendation from the SC based on the testing of the benthopelagic assessment algorithm.**
 126. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat with further developing a document assessing the implications of the new definition on existing CMMs and provide it to SC12 and CC11, within consideration of their role, and MoP14 for consideration.**
 127. The EU drew the MoP's attention to paragraph 218 of the SC11 report. The paragraph, in essence, states that more recent ageing research shows strong evidence for an older-age scenario for alfonsino, indicating a more than two-fold increase in longevity, which will need to be reflected in the next stock assessment for this species. The EU pointed out that this indicates that alfonsino is a more sensitive species than was previously believed and called for stronger management of this species.
 128. The Cook Islands pointed out that it has committed to ageing a further 500 otoliths based

on the method described in paragraph 218 of the SC11 report. If this work is successful, the Cook Islands will further expand the use of this methodology and apply it to historical otolith samples.

129. Japan informed the MoP that it is also collecting otoliths and conducting ageing work. Japan also pointed out that the SC workplan includes several projects that will contribute to the alfonso stock assessment, including ageing projects. Japan noted that some of the progress and outcomes from these projects should contribute to developing management measures for the alfonso fishery.
130. China noted that the 2025 Nansen research cruise in the Agreement Area has also collected alfonso otoliths that could contribute to further ageing work.
131. **The MoP ENDORSED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 226 of the SC11 report and REQUESTED all CCPs who fish for alfonso to routinely collect length and otolith samples using the same random sampling methodology.**
132. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 255 of the SC11 report to 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, based on the catch trend analysis rules.** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
133. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 263 of the SC11 report to 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."** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
134. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 264 of the SC11 report to 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."** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
135. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 265 of the SC11 report to 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.** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
136. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 266 of the SC11 report to 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.** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
137. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 271 of the SC11 report to 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), given 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 and that there was a decreasing trend in the CPUE-by-seabed analogy biomass estimates.** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
138. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 298 of the SC11 report and NOTED that the spatial extent of**

China's historical squid jigging fishery spans all SIOFA Subareas.

139. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 299 of the SC11 report and NOTED 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.**
140. China agreed with the SC's view that squid is a mobile species and that further comprehensive study is necessary. However, China emphasised that SIOFA's jurisdiction must not extend beyond the Agreement Area.

5.1.6 Bycatch and incidental captures

141. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 336 of the SC11 report and NOTED that several non-contracting parties have made significant catches of SIOFA species that have not been reported to SIOFA.**
142. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 337 of the SC11 report and NOTED that several CCPs are reporting catch of SIOFA species to the IOTC but not to SIOFA.**
143. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 338 of the SC11 report and considered the SC's request for CCPs that are members of the IOTC to request that the IOTC improve bycatch reporting and species identification.**
144. Some CCPs expressed their recognition of the importance of being able to receive improved bycatch reporting with improved species identification from the IOTC but noted that the IOTC has its own priorities that it will focus on.
145. The IOTC echoed the point raised by these CCPs, explaining that there is debate as to whether oilfish is a target or bycatch fishery and that the request in paragraph 338 of the SC11 report could be seen as requesting the IOTC to improve data collection and reporting to cover species that are not part of the IOTC's responsibility. The IOTC also clarified that it does receive species-specific information from the oilfish fisheries and that it does share data with SIOFA.
146. Chinese Taipei noted that it submits data to both IOTC and SIOFA for its pelagic longline fishery.
147. **The MoP encouraged CCPs that are members of the IOTC to work through the IOTC to improve the IOTC's bycatch reporting and species identification, while being cognisant of the IOTC's own priorities.**
148. Mauritius highlighted the importance of mechanisms to enable a better understanding of incidental catches occurring within the overlapping areas of competence of SIOFA and the IOTC, such as formal data sharing arrangements, harmonised reporting requirements, joint scientific assessments and mutually agreed criteria, and distinguishing incidental catches from direct fishing.
149. The IOTC recalled previous efforts to establish an agreement for formal cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC, explaining that the IOTC falls under the FAO and has no legal identity, so any formal agreement needed to be concluded between SIOFA and the FAO, rather than between SIOFA and the IOTC, which necessitated particular legal language and requirements that SIOFA was not comfortable with. The IOTC suggested that one way forward, which it has recently explored, is for SIOFA to conclude a generic memorandum of understanding with the FAO, and then to develop a more detailed workplan directly with the IOTC.
150. The EU highlighted the need for SIOFA to better understand CCPs' oilfish fisheries, noting that this is the most harvested SIOFA species in the Agreement Area and that there is currently a lack of information available on these fisheries to CCPs that are not participating in them. In particular, the EU noted that it remains unclear whether CCPs that harvest

oilfish consider that oilfish is bycatch of tuna fisheries, tuna is bycatch of oilfish fisheries, or this is a true mixed fishery targeting both tuna and oilfish. The EU also noted that SIOFA has no management measures in place for oilfish and that it is difficult to develop management measures for a fishery that is not well understood. The EU suggested that the MoP should request CCPs that are actively harvesting oilfish to present substantive information regarding the characterisation of their oilfish fisheries at SC12. The EU also noted that in terms of the capture of other IOTC species, these fisheries take catches of tuna and also pelagic sharks. If the oilfish fisheries are a target fishery or part of a mixed fisheries, the taking of large amounts of pelagic shark by SIOFA vessels would become an issue that SIOFA would be responsible for. The EU suggested that good examples to follow would be the toothfish fishery characterisation provided by the EU and France (OT) in SC-08-INFO-17 or the orange roughy fishery characterisation provided by the Cook Islands in SC-08-INFO-14.

151. Chinese Taipei stated that it has submitted data from its oilfish fishery to the SC in its annual reports and that it has conducted and continues to update its CPUE standardisation work related to its oilfish fishery to enable other CCPs to better understand this fishery. Chinese Taipei considered that it has fulfilled all its commitments and obligations.
152. The EU noted that while this is not an obligation, all CCPs have a responsibility to cooperate and to take shared responsibility for the management of SIOFA species. The EU reiterated that oilfish is the most harvested SIOFA species, that other CCPs have little understanding of the fishery, and that there are no management measures in place for it. The EU also pointed out that it was not requesting any sensitive data and was making a normal request for a detailed description of the fishery, similar to the descriptions that other CCPs have provided voluntarily.
153. The SC Chairperson noted that Chinese Taipei is conducting SC project OIL-2027-01, which involves updating its oilfish and escolar CPUE standardisation work, and suggested that the project description could be adjusted to include information relevant to a characterisation of Chinese Taipei's oilfish fishery.
154. **The MoP NOTED the strong commitment of CCPs with vessels targeting oilfish to undertake the following for SC12's consideration:**
 - a. **Characterise the OIL/LEC fishery in the SIOFA Area, summarising trends in catch, effort, and unstandardised CPUE by CCP, subarea, and gear, and distinguishing directed pelagic longline catch from bycatch reported in other target fisheries.**
 - b. **Summarise available length/size composition data for OIL and LEC by subarea and fleet, and assess whether current data are adequate to support future characterisation of size structure.**

5.1.7 Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

155. SC11 did not provide any recommendations on VME.

5.1.8 Benthic Fisheries Closures CMM 18(2025) and marine protected areas

156. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 370 of the SC11 report and TASKED the Secretariat to submit the SIOFA BFCs to the World Data Base on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs), NOTING that the SIOFA BFCs are good examples of area-based management measures developed through cooperation between an RFMO and industry stakeholders.**

5.1.9 New and Exploratory Fisheries CMM 17(2025)

157. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 376 of the SC11 report, NOTED that the SC considered Thailand's proposed research cruise to be a useful contribution to SIOFA's science, and NOTED that the SC supported Thailand undertaking this research.**

158. The MoP considered Thailand's proposed research cruise under agenda item 7.3.2.
159. The Joint Commission of the JMA, consisting of Mauritius and Seychelles, thanked Thailand for presenting its proposed research cruise plan for the Saya de Malha Bank and acknowledged the valuable contributions that marine scientific research can make. Mauritius and Seychelles have consistently supported marine scientific research and international scientific cooperation, particularly where such activities contribute to evidence-based management and the sustainable use of ocean resources. At the same time, Mauritius and Seychelles recalled that the Saya de Malha Bank is located within the JMA established by their two States pursuant to the Treaty concerning the Joint Exercise of Sovereign Rights over the Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region. Within this area, Mauritius and Seychelles jointly exercise sovereign rights over the continental shelf and its resources in accordance with international law, including the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In this regard, while noting the scientific objectives of the proposed research cruise, Mauritius and Seychelles emphasised that any marine scientific research activities undertaken within the JMA should be conducted in conformity with the applicable legal and regulatory framework established by the two States. They invited Thailand to engage with the Joint Commission to seek the necessary authorisations in accordance with the relevant legislation governing marine scientific research in the JMA. Such engagement would facilitate scientific cooperation, transparency, data sharing and mutual benefit while ensuring full respect for the rights and responsibilities of the two coastal States under UNCLOS. Mauritius and Seychelles stated that they remain open to constructive scientific partnerships and looked forward to continued collaboration with Thailand and other SIOFA Members in advancing marine science and sustainable ocean governance in the Southern Indian Ocean.
160. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 379 of the SC11 report and NOTED the revised Fisheries Operation Plan Checklist (Annex L, SC11 Report).**
161. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 387 of the SC11 report and NOTED that Mauritius has submitted catch data and other information from its alfonsino mid-water and benthopelagic trawl fishery to the SC as requested by MoP12 (MoP12 Report, para 216).**
162. **The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation in paragraph 388 of the SC11 report to include Mauritius as a participant in the fishery targeting alfonsino with mid-water and benthopelagic trawl in Annex 1 (Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area) of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
163. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 391 of the SC11 report and REQUESTED that CCPs fishing for alfonsino collect standardised length frequency data as well as otolith samples and coordinate a standardised collection protocol.**
164. **The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 393 of the SC11 report to adopt the SC's proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries).** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 10.
- 5.1.10 Framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area**
165. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 434. The MoP NOTED the SC's recommendation that the MoP continue its efforts to establish a CMM for research cruises and scientific research, as well as the SC's recommendation that the CMM should set out one 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.** The MoP held further discussions under agenda item 11.

5.1.11 Scientific Observers

166. The MoP discussed paragraph 442 of the SC11 report, which indicated that SIOFA has already adopted electronic monitoring (EM) standards for pelagic longliners, but confirmed that SIOFA has not in fact done so.
167. **The MoP ENDORSED the application of the EM standards for pelagic longliners set out in IOTC Resolution 23/08 to pelagic longliners in SIOFA.**
168. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 445 and considered the SC's request for clarification about the overall objectives of the SIOFA EM programme, including whether the data could also be used for compliance purposes.**
169. **The MoP AGREED that the SIOFA EM programme is primarily intended for the collection of data for scientific purposes, as an alternative to data collection by scientific observers. The MoP also AGREED that there should be no constraints on each CCP using data collected by EM for compliance purposes domestically.**

5.1.12 Future work

170. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 457 of the SC11 report, NOTED that the SC is undertaking work on assessing the vulnerability of SIOFA species and ecosystems to climate change impacts through Project CLI-2025-01, NOTED that the SC has reviewed a preliminary report at SC11, and NOTED 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.**
171. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 458 of the SC11 report and ENDORSED the holding of an online workshop by the SC 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).**
172. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 459 of the SC11 report and TASKED the SC with developing climate change indicators that should be regularly reported on and updated annually.**
173. **The MoP NOTED paragraph 475 of the SC11 report and NOTED 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).**
174. **The MoP held further discussions on the recommendations of the SIOFA Performance Review Panel under agenda item 13.1.1.**
175. **The MoP NOTED the SC's request in paragraph 481 of the SC11 report for advice on whether to include projects aimed at capacity development for small island developing States (SIDS) in the scope of a potential consultancy to develop a capacity-building action plan.**
176. **The MoP held further discussions on capacity building under agenda item 12.**
177. **The MoP NOTED the recommendation in paragraph 498 of the SC11 report regarding the date and duration of the next SC meeting and held further discussions on 2027 meeting arrangements under agenda item 18.**

5.1.13 Other recommendations

178. The MoP NOTED paragraph 502 of the SC11 report and NOTED the 2026 recipients of the SIOFA Scientific Service Award: Yongchuang Shi (CHN), Weerapol Thitipongtrakul (THA), Steve Parker (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)), Chong Sun (CHN), Chia-Chun Wu (TPE), Barry Weeber (DSCC), Trent Timmiss (AUS), and Alistair Dunn (SC Chairperson).
179. The MoP NOTED paragraph 513 of the SC11 report and NOTED that the SC agreed to re-elect Dr Zhou Fang (China) as an SC Vice-Chairperson.
180. Following its review, the MoP ADOPTED the SC11 report.
181. The DSCC introduced MoP-13-INFO-14, which outlined recent international resolutions reinforcing global commitments and international expectations for the protection of sea mount ecosystems and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. These include the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Resolution 8.032 and the decision by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention for Migratory Species on conserving deep-sea ecosystems. The emergence of the BBNJ may also result in future obligations for SIOFA as it becomes operational. The DSCC urged the MoP to take note of these developments and the growing number of global imperatives to protect VMEs, including seamounts, given their importance for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity in the Indian Ocean, and to fully implement the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions. The DSCC also urged the MoP to adopt a resolution and establish a working group to consider mechanisms necessary to align with future BBNJ needs. The DSCC also welcomed the SC's advice and recommendations on climate change and urged the MoP to urgently progress work to incorporate climate impacts into species and ecosystem assessments.
182. The DSCC introduced MoP-13-INFO-17, which provided a spatial overview of seamount ecosystems identified or inferred within the Agreement Area as a contribution towards strengthening protection of VMEs, including seamounts, from destructive fishing practices, given their importance for healthy ocean ecosystems and biodiversity. The DSCC said it intended to submit this information with a more detailed analysis to SC12, and encouraged CCPs to build on the information in its paper. The DSCC also suggested that the information it had provided would be sufficient to allow the development of a SIOFA database on individual seamounts, including their location, size and biodiversity.

Agenda item 6 – Climate change

6.1 Identification of advice required from Scientific Committee on the implications of climate change on SIOFA fisheries

183. No papers were presented under this agenda item.

Agenda item 7 – New and Exploratory Fisheries

7.1 New Fisheries

7.2 Exploratory Fisheries

184. The MoP NOTED that the SC did not receive any notifications or papers proposing new or exploratory fisheries.

7.3 Scientific Research

185. China presented MoP-13-30, which provided its draft research cruise plan for the 2026–2027 survey year. Building on its high seas resource cruises from 2023 to 2026, China intends to 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. Specifically, the surveys are aimed at

gaining a preliminary understanding of the species composition and quantity distribution of swimming organisms, plankton, fish eggs, and juvenile fish in the surveyed waters; grasping the physical marine environmental characteristics of the surveyed waters; and analysing the components of the pelagic marine ecosystems in the surveyed waters. China will submit the results of its research surveys to the SC.

186. The EU thanked China for providing the information and welcomed such potential contributions to science. However, the EU noted that China's research cruise plan differed greatly from that outlined in China's proposal for a new CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area. The EU noted that it lacked scientific detail and seemed quite preliminary, lacking, for example, information about the vessels, gear specifications, catch and bycatch protocols, and detailed data submission arrangements. The EU also considered that the appropriate procedure would be to first provide the research cruise plan to the SC for a technical review and advice, as Thailand had done with its research cruise plan, and then for the MoP to endorse the plan or act on the SC's advice. The EU suggested that the MoP note the draft plan and request technical review by the SC before implementation, preferably through an intersessional process given the proposed October 2026 start date. The EU also noted that China has conducted research cruises in the Agreement Area in 2023 and 2024 as well and encouraged China to make these data available to SIOFA.
187. China responded that SIOFA does not currently have a template in place for research cruise plans and believed that proposals in any format would be acceptable. China explained that because this was a paper for MoP, it thought it would not be necessary to include technical details. China clarified that its intention was only to notify MoP that it would conduct such a research cruise. China acknowledged the procedural aspects and improvements suggested by the EU and expressed its intention to take these into account when developing its new CMM proposal further and when presenting plans for future research cruises to the SC.
188. The Joint Commission of the Seychelles-Mauritius JMA thanked China for its proposed research cruise plan and noted that the Saya de Malha Bank would be within the proposed research area. The Joint Commission welcomed the planned research cruise and invited China, at an appropriate stage, to engage with the Joint Commission to seek the necessary authorisations in accordance with the relevant legislation, which would facilitate scientific cooperation, transparency, data sharing and continued cooperation with China.
189. **The MoP NOTED China's draft plan for a research cruise in the SIOFA Area and the purpose of the research cruise, which is to collect scientific data for research on SIOFA species and their environment and marine ecosystems.**

7.3.1 Follow-up on scientific research activities by RV *Atlantida* in the SIOFA Area

190. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-INFO-06, which provided a follow-up report on the scientific research activities by the RV *Atlantida* in the SIOFA Area. As tasked by MoP12, the Executive Secretary wrote on 21 July 2025 to both the Head of the Expedition on the RV *Atlantida* and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request a detailed explanation of the vessel's activities in the SIOFA Area and its further intentions. However, he did not receive a response. At the encouragement of MoP12, a CCP analysed automatic identification system (AIS) data for the RV *Atlantida* and determined that the vessel was scheduled to arrive at the Port of Maputo, Mozambique on 4 July 2025. On that basis, the CCP requested the authorities of Mozambique, as a SIOFA signatory and a Party to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), to conduct an inspection of the vessel upon its arrival. The Mozambican authorities informed the CCP that the RV *Atlantida* entered the Port of

Maputo on 10 July 2025 and that an inspection was duly conducted. The authorities reported that: “The verification of all documents and fishing equipment on board concluded that the vessel was conducting oceanographic research and there was no indication of fishing activity, as the vessel is not equipped to carry out such operations”. At the recommendation of the aforementioned CCP, the Executive Secretary formally contacted the Mozambican authorities to request that the inspection results be transmitted to SIOFA, in accordance with Article 15 of the PSMA. However, he did not receive a response.

191. The MoP thanked the Secretariat for its extensive efforts to follow up on this matter.
192. Several CCPs noted that it was highly inappropriate for the research vessel to completely disregard the communication from the SIOFA Secretariat and to behave in this manner. They also noted that the adoption of a CMM for research cruises could prevent the occurrence of similar issues in the future.
193. The Cook Islands believed that once SIOFA has adopted such a CMM, it should take a strict and firm approach to the flag State of any vessel conducting actual or claimed research activities in the Agreement Area that are not in accordance with the CMM, primarily by listing the vessel on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List.
194. The EU explained that it was the CCP that had encouraged the Secretariat to contact Mozambique. The EU shared the information it had received, which was that the vessel was apparently inspected twice by Mozambique, and according to the partial information received, apparently there was no evidence to prove that the vessel engaged in illicit activities, the fishing nets contained no evidence to indicate that fishing had taken place, and the vessel indicated that it had been conducting oceanographic and hydrographic research.
195. **The MoP TASKED the Executive Secretary to write another official letter to Mozambique to seek to obtain the port inspection reports from Mozambique as a Party to the PSMA and, in doing so, to remind Mozambique of its commitments and responsibilities as a signatory to SIOFA.**
196. **The MoP TASKED the Executive Secretary to attempt to contact the Russian authorities again and to write official letters to the Russian representatives to FAO and to CCAMLR.**
197. The Executive Secretary indicated that he would send a Circular to the MoP with the draft letter and seek their input on it. He suggested that interested CCPs could send their own letters, using the draft letter as a basis, if they wished. He also requested that CCPs provide any other recommended or known contact person to whom the letters should be addressed.

7.3.2 Research cruise planned for Saya de Malha

198. Thailand presented MoP-13-INFO-18, which provided an overview of Thailand’s research cruise plan for the Saya de Malha Bank. The surveyed area will be divided into 12 stations covering the south part of the Saya de Malha Bank within SIOFA Subarea 8. The survey is expected to be conducted during the third or fourth quarter of 2027. R/V Mahidol is 62.53 metres in length with a gross tonnage of 1276. The fishing gears to be used include fish trap, bottom vertical longline, automatic squid jigging, and automatic fishing line, targeting demersal fishes (e.g., snappers and groupers), trevallies, and squids. Abundance and some biological parameters will be analysed. In addition to a fisheries resources survey, oceanographic data will be collected, and plankton and fish larvae will be identified. VMEs and endangered, threatened, and protected (ETP) species, if accidentally caught, will be identified and recorded.
199. Thailand shared additional details about its research cruise plan at the request of the

Seychelles, Mauritius, and the Joint Commission of the JMA.

200. **The MoP NOTED Thailand's research cruise plan for the Saya de Malha Bank.**

Agenda item 8 – Data access and dissemination

8.1 Data and security audits implementation update

201. The Data Officer, Mr Pierre Périès, presented MoP-13-13-Rev1, which summarised the data and security audit recommendations endorsed by the MoP, and provided an update on the implementation status of each recommendation. A few recommendations are still in progress or partially implemented and a few of them require the MoP and its subsidiary bodies to provide advice.
202. The Cook Islands suggested that the implementation would benefit from a clear and logical sequencing. It suggested that first, the MoP support finalising the governance framework through the endorsement of the Information System Security Policy (ISSP), while taking note of the accompanying risk analysis, which together provide the policy foundation for the remaining cybersecurity measures. Second, once that framework is in place, the focus should shift to building staff capability by establishing a cybersecurity awareness program for the Secretariat staff, together with more specialised training for staff with IT responsibilities. This should be done with a practical and cost-effective approach, making use of recognised online training where appropriate, supplemented by targeted in-person training and specialist instruction for those responsible for managing the Secretariat's information systems. Third, with the governance framework and staff capability in place, the Secretariat's business continuity arrangements should be enhanced through an off-site backup solution for confidential fisheries data. The proposed cloud backup appears to be a reasonable and cost-effective option but it should be implemented as part of a documented backup and disaster recovery procedure. Finally, as the remaining recommendations are implemented, the Secretariat should provide periodic updates to the MoP on implementation progress, including any lessons learned and whether further improvements are required.
203. **The MoP NOTED the updates regarding recommendations D1, D2, D5, D14 and D16.**
204. **The MoP NOTED the updates on S1 and S2 and their relevance to the draft SIOFA ISSP (MoP 10-14).**
205. **The MoP NOTED the update on S8 and ENDORSED the hiring of a consultant to conduct one-day general cybersecurity training for the SIOFA staff.**
206. **The MoP NOTED the update on S15 and ENDORSED the use of funds on cloud backup solutions from a web hosting provider.**
207. **The MoP NOTED the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the data and security audits (MoP-13-13-Rev1).**
208. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to continue to provide periodic updates to the MoP on implementation progress, including any lessons learned and whether further improvements are required.**
209. **The MoP REQUESTED that the Secretariat distinguish between the implementation statuses of "in progress" and "completed with adaptations" by using different colour codes for them in future updates.**
210. The Data Officer presented MoP-13-14, the draft ISSP. He explained that after the data and security audit performed in 2022, the MoP endorsed the recommendation to develop the SIOFA ISSP, the Secretariat drafted the ToR for a consultancy in 2025, and Orange Cyber Defense was selected as the consultant in 2026.
211. **The MoP reviewed and ENDORSED the SIOFA ISSP (Annex K).**

8.2 Review of the criteria and process by which papers are classified and implications for the RoP

- 212. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-12, the draft SIOFA Meeting Document Framework. The framework provided classifications for meeting documents, set out access rights by document classification and user group, and identified rule-by-rule implications for the Rules of Procedure (RoP).
- 213. The MoP reviewed the draft framework (MoP-13-12).
- 214. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to add the mention of circulars within the categorisation of the different types of documents.**
- 215. **The MoP ENDORSED the SIOFA Meeting Document Framework (Annex L).**
- 216. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to make the SIOFA Meeting Document Framework available on the SIOFA website in an easily accessible location.**
- 217. **The MoP NOTED the potential implications of the gap between established SIOFA practice and the Rules 8(d), 10.5, and 20 of the current RoP described in MoP-13-12-Rev1.**

Agenda item 9 – Interim bottom fishing measures

9.1 States or fishing entities that became CCPs before the MoP in 2017 – revision to measures established under CMM 01(2025)

- 218. The EU explained that it had submitted a minor update to its measures established under CMM 01(2025). The EU explained that as its relevant legislation is renewed each year, the EU informs the Secretariat of the updated legislative reference each year.
- 219. **The MoP NOTED that the EU had submitted a minor update to its interim bottom fishing measures to the Secretariat.**

9.2 States or fishing entities that became CCPs after the MoP in 2017 – approval of measures pursuant to paragraph 28 of CMM 01(2025)

- 220. **The MoP NOTED that no interim bottom fishing measures were submitted under agenda item 9.2.**

Agenda item 10 – Review and amendment of Conservation Management Measures (CMMs) currently in force

- 221. Mauritius presented MoP-13-29-Rev1, which proposed an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards that allows the Mauritius semi-industrial fishery to be exempted from the requirement to embark observers on board. Mauritius informed the MoP that it had presented the proposal to the CC and, based on the CC's feedback, subsequently updated the proposal with a timeline for the implementation of the proposed method of data collection and a coverage target for biological sampling.
- 222. The Cook Islands reiterated the SC advice that port sampling targets should also include the portion of catch to be covered. In addition, the Cook Islands noted that the proposed timeline was very open-ended and suggested that Mauritius be more specific. The Cook Islands suggested that there are many international programmes on the use of cameras and electronic monitoring systems (EMS) that Mauritius could refer to, that Mauritius include information about which programs it would contact and learn from, and that Mauritius should be able to set up its program in less than five years.
- 223. The EU noted that Mauritius' proposal contained several sections that state "To be advised by the SC12". The EU suggested that Mauritius replace these entries with its actual proposed approach.
- 224. Japan pointed out that it is not currently possible to evaluate the effectiveness of Mauritius'

- proposed data collection plan and suggested that any exemption of Mauritius from the requirement to embark scientific observers on vessels in its semi-industrial fishery should be on a one-year provisional basis and subject to additional review after one year elapses.
225. The MoP expressed its appreciation to Mauritius for trying to address the difficulty it has embarking observers on board vessels in its semi-industrial fishery by proposing an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards.
226. **The MoP AGREED to forward the Mauritius proposal on an alternate method for collecting data required by paragraph 12 of CMM 02(2025) on Data Standards for further review by the SC and REQUESTED Mauritius to provide additional details to facilitate the SC's review, taking into account the comments received from the MoP.**
227. China presented MoP-13-20-Rev1, which proposed amendments to CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) to streamline the reporting regime for research vessels entering and exiting the Agreement Area and enhance operational efficiency for scientific surveys, while upholding compliance with mandatory reporting obligations. China explained that it had presented the proposal to the CC and since updated it by adjusting some of the phrasing.
228. In light of the adoption of amendments to other CMMs to enable the use of the SIOFA VMS for automatic entry and exit notification and internal consultations, China considered that the issues that MoP-13-20-Rev1 seeks to address had been resolved and China agreed to withdraw its proposal.
229. The MoP accepted the withdrawal of China's proposal in MoP-13-20-Rev1.
230. Mauritius presented MoP-13-24-Rev1, which proposed amendments to CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) to include "minor non-compliant" as a compliance status in the table under Annex 1 Compliance Categories, based on the recommendation made by MoP11 on the Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) and reviewed by CC9 and MoP12. Mauritius explained that it had also presented the proposal at CC10 and that it had updated its proposal based on discussions at the CC and feedback from CCPs.
231. **The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal and ADOPTED the proposed amendments to CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) (Annex M).**
232. Australia presented MoP-13-22, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to implement recommendations from SC11, implement an outstanding recommendation from SC10 to establish the South Indian Ridge (SIR) Management Area, establish a catch sharing arrangement for SIR, and remove an obsolete paragraph. Australia explained that it had also presented the proposal at CC10. The amendments aim to:
- a. set catch limits for the Williams Ridge (WR) and Del Cano Rise (DCR) Management Areas,
 - b. establish the proposed SIR Management Area with a catch limit and catch-sharing arrangement,
 - c. clarify the line spacing requirements for longlines,
 - d. modify paragraph 14 regarding the achievement and reporting of tag overlap statistics,
 - e. remove paragraph 44.
233. Following discussions in the margins, particularly regarding catch sharing arrangements for CCPs actively fishing toothfish and opportunities for new entrants in the future, Australia presented a revised proposal (MoP-13-22-Rev2).
234. **The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal further, and ADOPTED the proposed amendments to the toothfish-related provisions of CMM 15(2025) (Management of**

Demersal Stocks) (Annex N).

235. The DSCC expressed its appreciation for the work done to establish management measures for toothfish catches and allocations across all three fishing areas, particularly the extension of measures to SIR, bringing fishing in this area in line with other toothfish fisheries.
236. The EU presented MoP-13-26-Rev1, which proposed amendments to CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) to implement recommendations from SC10 and SC11 in relation to the management of toothfish, orange roughy and alfonso. The EU explained that it had presented the proposal at CC10 and that based on discussions at the CC, it had updated its proposal with catch-sharing arrangements for orange roughy and alfonso, while expressing its flexibility on the exact arrangements as it is not participating in these fisheries. The EU also emphasised the urgent need for SIOFA to establish effective management measures for orange roughy and alfonso. The EU's proposed amendments aim to:
- a. establish the SIR Management Area with the total allowable catch (TAC) recommended by SC11,
 - b. establish an allocation mechanism for the SIR Management Area,
 - c. increase the TAC in the DCR Management Area as recommended by SC11,
 - d. amend the management system in the WR Management Area to retain the catch limit while removing the "effort" management system as a first step to implement paragraph 255 of the SC11 report,
 - e. set up a catch limit for orange roughy as recommended by SC10, and an allocation ratio,
 - f. and set up a catch limit for alfonso as recommended by SC10, and an allocation ratio.
237. The Cook Islands reiterated the point it expressed at CC10 that it could not support the inclusion of catch limits for alfonso and orange roughy until a definite allocation framework is in place or specific allocations for these fisheries are agreed, as there would otherwise be a risk of causing a race to fish. The Cook Islands also noted that the SC advice on the TAC value in the proposal was old and outdated, and that the time period chosen included the COVID years when the Cook Islands lost a vessel and another was under maintenance for an extended period, resulting in a low total catch that has since normalised. In addition, the Cook Islands noted that Mauritius has not fished orange roughy for more than 10 years and that if it wished to resume fishing, it should be considered a new entrant. The Cook Islands also believed that the EU proposal should cross-reference paragraphs 5 and 11 of the Cook Islands' allocation proposal to clarify some elements and that the two proposals should go hand in hand.
238. China was of the view that catch limits based on historical information would be arbitrary and premature. Regarding alfonso, China noted that the SC is scheduled to undertake a comprehensive stock assessment in 2027. Regarding orange roughy, China suggested that rather than an explicit catch limit, a measure based on stable effort would be preferable.
239. Seychelles considered the proposal to be highly restrictive. It pointed out that it is a SIDS adjacent to the Agreement Area and that so far it has not had the capacity to participate in demersal fisheries, and that the EU proposal would exclude Seychelles from the fisheries in the future as well, as there is no mechanism for new entrants.
240. Mauritius expressed concern about the obstacles to entry for new entrants in the EU proposal. Mauritius also stated that historical catch cannot be the only criterion considered for the allocation.

241. The EU reiterated that it has proposed tentative catch limits for those fisheries because it is not appropriate for the current measure, which concerns demersal stocks, to only have management measures in place for toothfish and not alfonsino and orange roughy. The EU reminded the MoP that it had presented a similar proposal at MoP12 and was told by other CCPs that they could not accept catch limits for alfonsino and orange roughy without specific allocations, so the EU encouraged CCPs in those fisheries to discuss allocations, yet they did not. The EU also reminded the MoP that it has provided substantial financial support for much scientific work and harvest strategy development work on alfonsino and orange roughy while not being a harvester. The EU reiterated that it is not interested in participating in the alfonsino and orange roughy fisheries and that it is flexible on the actual allocations for alfonsino and orange roughy, but interested CCPs must take responsibility for discussing and negotiating them. The EU urged interested CCPs to take management decisions for these two important stocks.
242. The EU worked with interested CCPs in the margins to prepare a revised proposal (MoP-13-26-Rev2). The EU explained that CCPs had made significant progress in further developing the proposal and were able to develop revised language related to the provisions on orange roughy but were unable to reach consensus on amending the provisions on alfonsino.
243. **The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal further, and ADOPTED the proposed amendments to the orange roughy-related provisions of CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks) (Annex O).**
244. The DSCC welcomed the establishment of catch limits for orange roughy for the first time but expressed concern that the limit is spread over multiple stocks and areas for three years and may not be sufficiently precautionary. The DSCC noted SIOFA's development of a management procedure and urged the MoP to request advice from the SC on the spread of catch limits amongst up to eight management units and what considerations are needed for multi-year catch limits as part of the management procedure.
245. Japan presented MoP-13-23-Rev1, which proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) to implement the recommendations by SC11. Japan explained that during discussions at the CC, the original proposal was revised at the request of Chinese Taipei to include more detailed area information about Chinese Taipei's oilfish fisheries. Japan noted that at the CC, some CCPs had expressed their preference for any proposed amendments to the table of established fisheries to first be reviewed by the SC as per past practices. Japan explained that it has nevertheless submitted the revised proposal to the MoP as the MoP has the decision-making authority to validate such amendments if it deems them to be appropriate.
246. The EU stated that, for procedural reasons, it did not support the inclusion of the subareas that Chinese Taipei had requested to add for its oilfish fisheries at the CC. The EU pointed out that the reporting of the related data in Chinese Taipei's annual report to the SC was not enough for the inclusion of these subareas in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025). The EU pointed out that Chinese Taipei needed to make a specific request for the inclusion of these subareas so that the SC could actually discuss such a request, as has been the past practice applied to and followed by other CCPs.
247. Seychelles supported Chinese Taipei's request for the inclusion of the additional subareas to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025). Seychelles pointed out that Chinese Taipei and Seychelles' oilfish fisheries are pelagic fisheries and should not be treated like bottom fisheries, which are restricted to specific subareas. Seychelles questioned the scientific value of restricting pelagic fisheries to specific subareas.

248. The Cook Islands echoed the EU's point regarding the procedural inconsistency of including the additional subareas in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025). The Cook Islands noted that Chinese Taipei and Seychelles had the opportunity at the SC to request that subareas 2, 3a, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be added but did not, whereas Chinese Taipei did request that subareas 1, 3b, and 8 be added. The Cook Islands also pointed out that in its understanding, the oilfish fisheries in subareas 2, 3a, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are bycatch fisheries.
249. Chinese Taipei noted the procedural concerns expressed by other CCPs but reiterated its position that it has submitted all relevant data to the SC and did engage in oilfish fishing in the whole SIOFA Area, including the subareas in question. Chinese Taipei further pointed out that the addition of these subareas would not be inconsistent as this is a different situation to past cases. Furthermore, Chinese Taipei suggested that it would be efficient to address this issue at MoP13, rather than prolonging the process by sending it back to the SC.
250. Seychelles pointed out that while the SC makes recommendations to the MoP, the SC is a subsidiary body of the MoP and that the lack of discussion on this matter at the SC does not preclude the MoP from taking a decision on it. Seychelles also reminded other CCPs of the principles of the Agreement, particularly Article 13, which states that CPs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and SIDS. Seychelles pointed out that the restricting of its pelagic fisheries to specific subareas would affect its legitimate right to participate in this fishery.
251. The Cook Islands pointed out that the data submitted by Seychelles to the SC only indicate catch in subareas 1, 3b and 8.
252. France (OT) also indicated that the inclusion of the additional subareas would be procedurally problematic. It also pointed out that the footnote to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) states that Annex 1 may be updated by the MoP upon the advice of the SC.
253. China drew the MoP's attention to SC-11-44, a paper that it submitted to SC11 on a comparative analysis and recommendations for the management of pelagic and bottom fisheries in SIOFA. China considered there to be some problems with the current CMM and its treatment of bottom and pelagic fisheries. China suggested that the MoP task the SC to initiate the development of a framework for the separate treatment of these two types of fisheries.
254. Seychelles stated that oilfish are a pelagic, highly mobile, migratory species, and subject to fishing, oceanic, and environmental conditions. Seychelles noted that Article 2 of the Agreement explicitly states that the Agreement's objectives are not just long-term conservation, but also promoting the sustainable development of fisheries in the Agreement Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the area, and including SIDS. Seychelles believed that proposing to freeze the fishery of a SIDS that is adjacent to the Agreement Area to its current footprint, especially on a pelagic resource, actively blocks its ability to sustainably develop this fishery and locks in historical imbalances. Seychelles noted that it has operated in this fishery with only two vessels. Seychelles further noted that Article 13 mandates that CPs give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States bordering the area, in relation to conservation and management of fisheries resources and the sustainable development of such resources. Paragraph 2(c) explicitly states that management measures must not result in transferring a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States and paragraph 3(b) requires CPs to assist SIDS to participate in fisheries, including facilitating access. Seychelles stated that imposing the footprint restriction would transfer a disproportionate

- burden on Seychelles, instead of facilitating access as required, defying the spirit of Article 13.
255. **The MoP NOTED Chinese Taipei's request that the MoP agree that the adoption of the amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) will not prohibit Chinese Taipei from continuing to operate its oilfish fishery in other subareas.**
 256. The MoP could not reach consensus on amending the area section for oilfish fisheries in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025), and the proposed amendments were reverted to the existing wording: "Southwest Indian Ocean". The MoP was able to reach consensus on all other amendments in the proposal.
 257. **The MoP ADOPTED the proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) (Annex P).**
 258. Mauritius presented MoP-13-25, which proposed amendments to Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries) to include Mauritius' alfonsino mid-water trawl fishery in the table of established SIOFA fisheries based on the recommendation of MoP12 and the advice of SC11. Mauritius noted that this amendment was also taken into account in Japan's proposal.
 259. Following the MoP's discussions and adoption of Japan's proposal to amend Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries), Mauritius noted that the amendments in its own proposal had been reflected and adopted, and Mauritius withdrew its proposal.
 260. The MoP accepted the withdrawal of Mauritius' proposal in MoP-13-25.
 261. At the request of the MoP, the Secretariat prepared MoP-13-33, which presented the SC's proposed technical amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) and modified versions of Annex A (Vessel Catch and Effort Data) and Annex B (Observer Data). The amendments included the number of species retained and discarded for toothfish among the data that shall be collected, so that overlap statistics can be calculated.
 262. The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal by adding data fields related to lighting to the data to be collected from squid jigging fisheries, similar to light seining fisheries (MoP-13-33-Rev1).
 263. **The MoP ADOPTED the proposed amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) (Annex Q).**
 264. At the request of the MoP, the SC Chairperson prepared MoP-13-34, which presented a potential amendment to CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) based on the MoP's discussions, specifically the addition of a footnote to paragraph 2 to clarify that the reporting requirements in paragraph 6 apply to all fishing vessels.
 265. CCPs expressed different interpretations of the applicability of paragraph 6 and there was no consensus to amend CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) by including a footnote to paragraph 2. Some CCPs were of the view that the reporting requirements in the CMM only apply to bottom fishing vessels as paragraph 2 states that "this CMM applies to all bottom fishing vessels". They pointed out that requiring reporting of non-bottom-fishing activities in BFCs would place a disproportionate burden on the management of other fisheries, including on coastal developing States. They further pointed out the reporting of information from pelagic fishing in the BFCs would not yield insight into benthic recovery or impacts. Other CCPs pointed out that all paragraphs in the CMM use the wording "bottom fishing vessels", except paragraph 6, which was intentionally drafted with the wording "any vessel allowed to fish". These CCPs considered the CMM to be unambiguous and noted that the purpose of including a footnote to paragraph 2 was only to draw the reader's attention to the fact that paragraph 6 has a different scope. They also pointed out that as bottom fishing is prohibited in the BFCs, there would logically not be any bottom fishing activities in the BFCs

to report; rather, it would be other fishing activities that should be reported. They also pointed out the reporting of information from all fishing activities in the BFCs would be scientifically valuable.

266. **The MoP TASKED the SC to provide the MoP with advice on whether the application of the reporting requirements under paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) (BFCs) to all vessels, not only bottom-fishing vessels, would be scientifically valuable.**
267. Seychelles noted that some CCPs were of the view that the reporting of the information required under paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) by all vessels fishing in BFCs, not only bottom-fishing vessels, would be useful for conducting future reviews of the BFCs. Seychelles pointed out that it is already providing fine-scale data from its pelagic fishery to the Secretariat and that the Secretariat is able to extract information relevant to the BFCs from Seychelles' data submissions. Seychelles stated that requiring its pelagic fishing vessels to report the information required under paragraph 6 of CMM 18(2025) would place a disproportionate burden on Seychelles for the management of a fishery that it is not participating in.
268. The Science Officer clarified that the Secretariat does indeed extract information relevant to the BFCs from CCPs' data submissions and that such information is included in the SIOFA Ecosystem Summary. He explained that the difference between the data from CCPs' annual data submissions to the Secretariat and the data in CCPs' annual reports to the SC is that, in 2026, for example, the data submission would include CCPs' data up to 2024, while the annual report would include data up to 2025.
269. There was no consensus to amend CMM 18(2025) (BFCs).
270. The Cook Islands and France (OT) considered that even without the addition of the proposed footnote, the scope of paragraph 6 clearly applies to any vessel allowed to fish, i.e., all fishing vessels, and that any non-reporting of fishing within the BFCs would need to be considered by the CC.
271. **The MoP NOTED that it could become necessary to amend paragraph 8 of CMM 18(2025) in light of the forthcoming entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS and AGREED to consider potential amendments to this paragraph in the future, taking into account any insights and lessons learned from the actual operation of the SIOFA VMS.**

Agenda item 11 – New Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

272. China presented MoP-13-19-Rev1, which proposed a new CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise in the SIOFA Area. China explained that the CMM is intended to establish a clear and comprehensive framework to govern fishery independent research cruise activities and builds on discussions that were initiated by the EU proposal (MoP-12-48-Rev1) submitted at MoP12, and were further elaborated during the Scientific Committee Workshop WS2025-ORS: Window of Opportunity – Research Vessels in SIOFA and SC11. China explained that it had presented the proposal at CC10 and that it had subsequently updated the proposal based on feedback from CCPs.
273. The EU presented MoP-13-27, which proposed a new CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel in the SIOFA Area. The EU explained that this version of the proposal builds on previous versions submitted to MoP12 and SC11 and is intended to continue discussions on the establishment of a framework for considering research cruises by research vessels in the SIOFA Area. Research cruises have been conducted already in the SIOFA Area by CCPs and non-CCPs. The EU also noted that if SIOFA adopts a CMM for research cruises, it may become necessary to amend CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) to clearly identify data derived from research cruises and its data access arrangements.
274. The EU presented MoP-13-28, which proposed a new CMM for Scientific Research by

Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area. The EU explained that this version of the proposal builds on previous versions submitted to MoP12 and SC11 and is intended to continue discussions on the establishment of a framework for considering scientific research by fishing vessels in the SIOFA Area.

275. The EU presented MoP-13-INFO-15, which provided a brief overview on how the EU's two proposed measures on research cruises and fishing vessel scientific research would complement CMM 17(2025) (New and Exploratory Fisheries). As background, the EU explained that research cruises in the SIOFA Agreement Area have taken place in the past but only the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen 2025 research cruise was clearly recorded and explicitly approved by the MoP as a research cruise plan. Meanwhile, diverse scientific research has been carried out by SIOFA authorised fishing vessels. Such research occurrences have been documented in several SC documents and helped the SC better understand those occurrences. Together with CMM 17(2025), the EU's two proposed CMMs aim to create a coherent three-track system: CMM 17 is the precautionary gateway for potential fishery development through new and exploratory fisheries; proposed CMM 19 would fill the current gap for dedicated research-vessel cruises; and proposed CMM 20 would fill the gap for scientific research work from fishing vessels.
276. The EU presented a revised version of its proposal for a new CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel in the SIOFA Area based on feedback from CCPs (MoP-13-28-Rev3).
277. China stated that it continued to be uncomfortable with some of the provisions in the CMM and the rationale for having separate CMMs for research by research vessels and research by fishing vessels.
278. The EU presented MoP-13-27-Rev2, a joint proposal for a new CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel that combined China's proposal (MoP-13-19-Rev1) with the EU's original proposal.
279. The MoP reviewed the proposal and revised it further (MoP-13-27-Rev3).
280. China also expressed concerns about potential ambiguities and issues of interpretation in the proposed CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel and the potential impact this may have on the upcoming research cruise it has planned in the SIOFA Area. China explained that it was therefore not ready to adopt the proposed CMM for Research Cruise by Research Vessel and the proposed CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel. China expressed its commitment to continue to work with the EU and other interested CCPs towards the adoption of such CMMs at MoP14. China also expressed its intention to implement the provisions of MoP-13-19-Rev3 for its upcoming research cruise on a voluntary trial basis and to share any implementation challenges at MoP14.
281. **The MoP NOTED the continued interest among CCPs for the development of frameworks for managing research by research vessels and fishing vessels and AGREED to continue to discuss this matter at MoP14.**
282. The Cook Islands presented MoP-13-21-Rev1, which proposed a new CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework based on the direction of the MoP and the discussions of the CC and the SC. The Cook Islands explained that it also presented this proposal at CC10 and has since updated the proposal based on the CC's discussions and CCPs' feedback. Namely, it has amended the paragraphs regarding new entrants to not include a prescriptive percentage and amended the definition of proportional historical catch to simplify the definition and exclude historical catch caught prior to the SIOFA Agreement entering into force. Overall, the proposal seeks to ensure that the MoP applies effective, sustainable and fair criteria for allocating catch and effort in SIOFA fisheries within areas beyond national jurisdiction, and to ensure that the rights of all SIOFA CCPs are respected, while providing

- for the legitimate rights and aspirations of developing coastal States, particularly SIDS, in the development of sustainable fisheries.
283. China noted that the prevailing practice among RFMOs is to design the allocation system on a species-by-species basis and believed that such an approach would be more practical. China noted that if other CCPs agreed with the proposed design of having a general framework, it believed that such a framework should be as principle-based as possible. Regarding possible principles, China suggested that the degree of compliance and the contribution to science and effective monitoring, control and surveillance may be not necessary because these may be discriminatory to small countries that do not have effective monitoring capabilities and research capabilities. China also believed that the transfer of catch limits for new entrants would be necessary, because if a new entrant had only a very small quota, it would not be practical to deploy resources to harvest that quota. Nevertheless, China suggested that, if all other CCPs generally supported the proposal, China would be ready to work with them to refine the text.
 284. The EU also supported a more pragmatic stock-by-stock approach. Regarding allocation principles, the EU noted that while it may be useful to talk about them, in practice, a measure that requests MoP to take into account a wide range of criteria is not the most efficient or simplest way to reach agreement on allocation. Furthermore, depending on the stock some criteria may be more or less important.
 285. Australia reiterated its concern about the use of historical proportional catch and emphasised the need to avoid potentially rewarding unsustainable historical fishing activities.
 286. Seychelles suggested that the Cook Islands include reference to Article 13 of the Agreement in its proposal.
 287. The Cook Islands explained that it had designed a framework based on principles rather than one based on individual stocks because the latter approach tends to result in ad hoc allocations that vary year by year and species by species. The Cook Islands explained that this approach is intended to ensure a degree of consistency across different allocations, particularly on aspects such as accounting for new entrants and protecting the rights of SIDS. The Cook Islands agreed that unsustainable historical catch should not be rewarded, and that as the converse of that, contribution to science should be considered. The Cook Islands also clarified that it is not proposing to weight the different criteria in any way.
 288. The Cook Islands presented a revised version of its proposal based on the feedback from CCPs (MoP-13-21-Rev2).
 289. Chinese Taipei questioned the exclusion of CNCPs from allocations, pointing out that Article 17 of the Agreement states that CNCPs shall enjoy benefits from participation in the fishery commensurate with their commitment to comply with, and their record of compliance with, CMMs in respect of the relevant stocks of fishery resources.
 290. Seychelles thanked the Cook Islands for including the reference to Article 13 of the Agreement and suggested that the reference be further elaborated so that it includes mention of SIDS.
 291. The Cook Islands presented a further revised version of its proposal based on the feedback from CCPs, with amendments related to CNCP rights and obligations, catch history language, and Article 13 language (MoP-13-21-Rev3).
 292. The EU and China did not support the inclusion of a mechanism that would enable allocation to CNCPs. They pointed out that any party fishing actively or interested in fishing actively for SIOFA species must first become a CP, and that allocating quotas to CNCPs would disincentivise CNCPs from becoming CPs.

293. Chinese Taipei stated its position that based on paragraph 4 of Article 17 of the Agreement, with a view to encouraging CNCs to become CPs, the allocation framework should retain a mechanism to allow CNCs to receive an allocation under very limited circumstances.
294. The EU emphasised that contribution to science should be included as one of the criteria in the framework and highlighted the significant contributions it has made to advancing SIOFA's scientific work. The EU acknowledged that different CCPs have had different opportunities to contribute to science, but pointed out that equally, different CCPs have had different historical opportunities to participate in a particular fishery. Therefore, the EU believed that it was entirely appropriate and not unfair to include scientific contribution as a criterion.
295. China pointed out that it too has contributed to advancing SIOFA's scientific work, including conducting research cruises in the Agreement Area. Nevertheless, China reiterated its position that it would be discriminatory, especially to SIDS, to favour CCPs that have contributed to science in allocation discussions.
296. The MoP reviewed the proposal and revised it further (MoP-13-21-Rev4).
297. The Cook Islands held further discussions with CCPs in the margins and presented a further revised proposal (MoP-13-21-Rev5).
298. The EU thanked the Cook Islands for partially addressing its concerns but expressed continued discomfort with the binding obligation to apply the allocation framework, questioning how this would be implemented in practice. The EU also expressed concern about the separate treatment of scientific contribution compared to other criteria.
299. The Cook Islands presented a further revised proposal (MoP-13-21-Rev6).
300. Mauritius expressed concern about including historical catch in the framework.
301. The Cook Islands clarified that historical catch is only one of several criteria that are to be considered in the allocation framework and that none of these criteria are weighted.
302. The Cook Islands presented a further revised proposal (MoP-13-21-Rev7).
303. The MoP made significant progress in developing the proposal but could not reach consensus. The only remaining issue outstanding was that some CCPs wished to include a provision that would attribute transfer to the transferring SIOFA Party as part of its catch history. Other CCPs did not support this inclusion. The Cook Islands thanked the other CCPs for their collaboration and noted that it would endeavour to progress the matter through the course of the next year.
304. **The MoP NOTED continued interest among CCPs for the development of a SIOFA allocation framework and AGREED to continue to discuss this matter at MoP14.**
305. France (OT) presented MoP-13-32-Rev1, which proposed a new resolution on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction). France (OT) explained that the BBNJ Agreement entered into force on 17 January 2026 and that the proposed resolution is intended to facilitate the consideration of RFMOs' competences, objectives, knowledge and governance within the BBNJ decision-making process. France (OT) further explained that the IOTC, based on a proposal by the Maldives, adopted a resolution pursuing identical goals at its 2026 annual session, and that the proposed resolution presents a similar approach in its wording, in order to establish a coherent framework within the RFMOs of the Indian Ocean. France (OT) explained that it first presented this proposal at CC10 and has since updated its proposal based on the discussions at the CC and CCPs' feedback. Primarily, rather than a legally binding CMM, the proposed format has been changed to a binding Resolution.

306. Several CCPs welcomed the proposal, noting its timely nature, the importance of engagement with the BBNJ process, and the value of being proactive in preparing for such cooperation.
307. China stated that it generally did not have any major concerns with the proposal. At the same time, it noted that while the IOTC has adopted a similar proposal, SIOFA has a different context. The IOTC is established under FAO so its resolution would enable more efficient cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement. Meanwhile, SIOFA is a separate legal entity from the FAO and can collaborate with the BBNJ Agreement smoothly even without the proposed instrument. China also noted that the proposal called for the sharing of the results of any research activity and pointed out that there may be some proprietary or confidential research that should not be shared. China therefore suggested that the proposal include reference to SIOFA's regulations related to confidentiality.
308. Seychelles expressed its full support for the proposal, noting the value of having a comprehensive framework for cooperation over cooperating on an ad hoc basis.
309. The EU recognised the reasoning behind developing a proposal around a resolution from the IOTC, since the two RFMOs are part of the same sea basin. Nevertheless, the EU pointed out that the two are different bodies with different structures. It may therefore be necessary to refocus some of the proposed activities to enable the SIOFA Secretariat to perform its duties and engage with the BBNJ Agreement.
310. France (OT) pointed out that the Secretariat is already engaging with the BBNJ Agreement as part of its current activities and that the proposal would establish a more comprehensive framework for such engagement.
311. Pew strongly encouraged SIOFA to adopt a resolution for cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement, pointing out that its entry into force has implications for all RFMOs, and that engagement with its processes will be a necessity going forward.
312. The DSCC strongly supported the efforts being made by SIOFA at MoP13 to initiate work to become BBNJ ready and referred the MoP to the information paper it presented at MoP12 (MoP-12-INFO-03).
313. France (OT) presented a revised version of its proposal that was co-sponsored by Seychelles (MoP-13-32-Rev2). France (OT) explained that the revised proposal reflected feedback from CCPs, particularly with regard to data confidentiality and the effective cooperation between the scientific bodies of SIOFA and BBNJ.
314. France (OT) also provided some additional comments to address some general points raised by other CCPs. France (OT) agreed with the point raised by other CCPs about the importance of respecting the differences in structure between SIOFA and the IOTC and indicated that adapting the measure to SIOFA is the objective of all the discussions held during the MoP. Regarding concerns about Secretariat workload and potential additional costs, France (OT) pointed out that the Secretariat has already been working on matters related to the BBNJ Agreement and is comfortable with continuing this work. To prepare for the additional workload and costs, France (OT) suggested that the Secretariat present a breakdown of potential costs over a two-year timeframe at MoP14. France (OT) noted that reserve funds could be used to cover these costs. France (OT) also pointed out that it had included a provision for the review of the legal and financial implications to enable the resolution to stay up to date. In addition, France (OT) noted that the SIOFA RoP requires the Secretariat to follow up on international collaboration work and international arrangements, including keeping the MoP up to date on relevant matters that may be developed with other RFMOs or other international agreements, such as the BBNJ Agreement. Therefore, France (OT) preferred a binding resolution in order to provide a

- clear framework and tasks for the Secretariat, and considered that a non-binding measure would be insufficient.
315. The EU suggested that as the BBNJ processes are still taking shape and many aspects remain undecided, it would be appropriate for the resolution to be reviewed earlier than five years in the future. The EU also suggested that participation in the consultation and assessment of proposals for area-based management tools (ABMTs) should be tasked to the Secretariat more generally, rather than the Executive Secretary specifically, as other members of the Secretariat may be more suitable in the case of technical discussions.
 316. China noted that the BBNJ Agreement was concluded under the framework of the United Nations and that the scope of the participation in the BBNJ Agreement and its institutional processes are determined by the relevant provisions of the BBNJ Agreement itself. China therefore suggested revising the drafting in the proposal to ensure that the resolution remains fully consistent with the participation arrangements under the BBNJ Agreement. China considered that this resolution should be a collaboration framework. Furthermore, as the RoP and other BBNJ procedures are not yet clearly determined, China considered that each CCP would need to collaborate with the BBNJ process based on its own circumstances. Therefore, China suggested that it may be more appropriate to adopt the proposal in a non-binding form.
 317. Japan stated that while a resolution would be a more appropriate form than a CMM, it still has legal effects and creates some expectations regarding implementation. Japan noted that the Secretariat has limited human resources while its workload continues to increase, including not only emerging BBNJ matters but also other responsibilities, which needs to be taken into account. Japan also noted that many operational aspects of the BBNJ process remain unclear and are under development. Therefore, Japan expressed its preference to replace “shall” with “should” so as to not create the expectation of a fully mandatory instrument. Japan suggested that with such a change, it would be comfortable with removing the “as appropriate” qualifiers. Japan considered that this would allow the resolution to function effectively while providing a certain degree of flexibility to account for the evolving nature of the BBNJ discussions.
 318. Australia considered that the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement represented an important development in the international framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Australia believed that SIOFA, as the competent fisheries management organisation, has an important role to play in ensuring that fisheries management and broader ocean governance continue to develop in a coherent and complementary manner. Australia supported the proposal as a practical framework for constructive engagement while respecting SIOFA’s mandate and decision-making processes. Australia particularly supported the efforts to strengthen communication and information exchange. Australia believed that early engagement with the BBNJ process would help avoid duplication, promote consistency, and ensure that decisions that affect the high seas are informed by the best available scientific advice and by the expertise already developed in SIOFA.
 319. The DSCC welcomed the proposed resolution to develop SIOFA engagement with the BBNJ Agreement, noting that it would provide a good framework for progressing such engagement. As previously indicated in the DSCC paper MoP-12-INFO-03, the DSCC recommended establishing a standing agenda item on BBNJ at MoP and establishing a working group under the MoP to progress BBNJ issues, including developing procedures necessary to develop environmental assessment and ABMTs, including MPA procedures. The DSCC noted that many of the issues it had raised in MoP-12-INFO-03 were covered in

the France (OT) proposal.

- 320. France (OT) presented a further revised version of its co-sponsored proposal with Seychelles based on feedback from CCPs (MoP-13-32-Rev3).
- 321. **The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal and ADOPTED the new Resolution on promoting the objectives of SIOFA through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (Annex R).**

Agenda item 12 – Capacity building needs for developing states

12.1 Technical assistance needed for the implementations of obligations

- 322. The Executive Secretary provided an update on the implementation of Article 13 in 2025–2026. In response to a request from the Cook Islands for capacity building and support regarding the management and processing of its data, with an emphasis on Microsoft Access Database and SIOFA data checking procedures, the Data Officer conducted training with four officers of the Ministry of Marine Resources from 15 to 23 November 2025 in Avarua. As for non-CCP developing States, while SIOFA does not currently have a formal capacity building framework for them, it provides financial assistance to support their participation in SIOFA meetings. The Secretariat also reaches out to neighbouring coastal States every year to encourage their participation and accession to the Agreement and offers financial assistance to facilitate that as well. In 2026, the Secretariat has provided financial assistance to support participation by developing States in SC11 and MoP13.
- 323. The Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat and the Data Officer in particular for supporting its request for capacity building assistance. The Cook Islands welcomed this assistance as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a small administration and limited financial resources, and noted that such assistance supports its effective participation in SIOFA processes.

12.2 Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building need of CCP developing States

- 324. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-07-Rev1 which outlined options to facilitate and address the capacity building needs of CCP developing States. He explained that MoP11 had tasked the Secretariat to identify capacity building needs of developing States and provide options for addressing these needs. Through a first round of consultations with CCPs, the Secretariat developed a paper and submitted it to MoP12 for discussion. In order to efficiently implement the options and address the needs for capacity building, MoP12 tasked the Secretariat to correspond with the relevant CCPs again to seek their input on their preferences among the proposed options in MoP-12-25-Rev2 and to submit an updated paper, with CCPs' input, for review to SC11, CC10, and MoP13. The Executive Secretary suggested that it could be useful to engage a consultant to develop a capacity building action plan to 1) define criteria of vulnerability indices to gauge the eligibility for assistance; 2) establish a timeline of the priority actions to be done starting from January 2027; 3) determine the budget necessary for the in-person workshops; and 4) consult stakeholders to organise training and workshops virtually or in-person.
- 325. China thanked the Secretariat for presenting the paper. China noted that it also has capacity building needs related to BFIAs, which it considers a priority and for which it wishes to receive support from the Secretariat.
- 326. **The MoP NOTED the capacity building needs and selected options submitted by CCP developing States as presented in Tables 1 to 4 of MoP-13-07-Rev1.**
- 327. Pew informed the MoP that it has developed a new capacity self-assessment tool (CSAT) as described in MoP-13-INFO-13. Pew explained that the CSAT is designed to be a

standardised tool that CCPs can use internally to assess their capacity to comply with international obligations. Pew informed the MoP that it has 30,000 USD in funds available to support the utilisation of the CSAT and could offer that funding to SIOFA if the CSAT is incorporated into the Capacity Building Action Plan.

- 328. **The MoP thanked Pew for its generous offer to support the funding of a consultant to develop a Capacity Building Action Plan for SIOFA and AGREED to accept it.**
- 329. **The MoP AGREED that the ToR for the consultancy would include the capacity development needs identified by CCPs in MoP-13-07-Rev1 and the use of the Self-Assessment Tool to Evaluate a Country's Capacity to Engage in RFMO Compliance Review Processes as described in MoP-13-Info-13. The MoP further encouraged CCPs to utilise the tool to help inform the development of the Capacity Building Action Plan.**
- 330. **The MoP also NOTED the SWIOP program and that some capacity building activities may be delivered through this program and help reduce the duplication of activities where appropriate.**
- 331. **The MoP ENDORSED the recommendation to hire a consultant utilising the generous voluntary contribution from Pew to develop the Capacity Building Action Plan.**
- 332. Seychelles presented MoP-13-31, a proposal for a MoP Decision on the practical operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement. Seychelles proposed that the MoP adopt a structured, practical and resource-sensitive approach to the implementation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement. Its proposal identified priority support areas for eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA CPs, and set out a simple implementation process for identifying needs, coordinating available support, integrating Article 13 considerations across relevant SIOFA workstreams, and reviewing progress over time. Seychelles emphasised that its proposal does not seek to amend the Agreement or create an open-ended funding mechanism; rather, it seeks to give practical effect to an existing commitment through clearer coordination, reporting and follow-up.
- 333. **The MoP NOTED the importance of giving practical effect to Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement.**
- 334. The MoP reviewed and revised the proposal (MoP-13-31-Rev1).
- 335. **The MoP ADOPTED the MoP Decision (Annex S).**
- 336. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to support the coordination and periodic reporting of Article 13-related needs, activities and progress.**

Agenda item 13 – Secretariat administration

13.1 Report on the Secretariat activities (since MoP12)

13.1.1 Action done relative to SIOFA Performance Review recommendations

- 337. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-06, which provided a summary of the status of the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the SIOFA Performance Review Panel in 2023 and adopted by MoP10. The summary was updated at MoP12, with input from the SC and the CC. Further updates have been proposed by SC11. CC10 also reviewed the plan but did not propose any updates. The Executive Secretary highlighted the recommendations relevant to the MoP and invited the MoP to provide further comments as appropriate.
- 338. **The MoP NOTED the implementation plan (Annex T).**
- 339. **The MoP NOTED that most of the recommendations from the first Performance Review Panel have been completed or are close to finalisation.**
- 340. **The MoP NOTED that the first Performance Review Report recommended that another Performance Review process be held within an appropriate timeframe, such as 5 years**

from the first iteration.

13.1.2. Secretariat activities

341. The Executive Secretary presented a report (MoP-13-01-Rev1) on staff resources and Secretariat activities prepared in accordance with Rules 8.1(f) and 8.1(g).
342. **The MoP NOTED the report on the Secretariat activities in MoP-13-01-Rev1.**
343. **The MoP ENDORSED the SIOFA Secretariat goals 2026 to 2027.**
344. The Executive Secretary also highlighted the fact that his current term of office will end in December 2027 and that the MoP is required to follow the detailed process outlined in Annex U of MoP9 under the MoP Chairperson's leadership.
345. The MoP welcomed the recruitment of the ICT Expert, Ms Hansa Gennoo, and expressed its satisfaction with the intersessional decision to establish one part-time position for data-related matters and one part-time position for ICT-related matters.
346. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-INFO-21, which provided an overview of the plans to modernise and redesign the SIOFA website. The current SIOFA website was developed more than 10 years ago, with the support of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). The website has served its purpose of providing SIOFA with a digital platform to support its daily operations and communication activities. However, it was developed under technical and design standards that no longer reflect current expectations for usability, accessibility, or public-facing communication. The Secretariat intends to redesign and renew the website with the goals of improving access to documents and information and providing a modern public-facing website that reflects SIOFA's current work. The Secretariat intends to carry out the website renewal primarily through internal effort. It may seek support through partnerships or through voluntary contributions from CPs, or funding from the reserve funds in 2027. The Secretariat anticipates that a renewed website could, with smooth progress, be operational by the end of 2027 and it aims to be able to present a concrete proposal at MoP14.
347. **The MoP NOTED that enhancement of the SIOFA website would be welcome but AGREED that this is not a priority or tasking previously expressed by the MoP, and that it should not be prioritised over other Secretariat responsibilities.**
348. **The MoP AGREED that this is not an urgent task and that the work did not need to be completed by the Secretariat's proposed deadline of the end of 2027.**
349. **The MoP AGREED that efforts to modernise and redesign the SIOFA website should be driven by internal resources and potentially external funding sources, such as support from FAO, and that the SIOFA budget should not be used for this work.**
350. **Accordingly, the MoP AGREED that the scope of the website enhancement could be narrowed to ensure that it did not have budgetary implications and that when reevaluating the scope, the Secretariat should focus on modernising the user experience, particularly facilitating easy and quick access to documents.**
351. CCPs highlighted the importance of being able to quickly and easily find the latest versions of meeting documents that are frequently being revised during meetings. CCPs also suggested that it would be convenient to organise meeting documents into topics, such as CMM proposals, CC-related documents, SC-related documents, financial documents, etc., rather than having a long list on the meeting page.

13.2 Financial status

352. Agenda item 13.2 and its sub-agenda items were discussed in a closed session.

13.2.1 Update on the 2020 fraud

353. China informed the MoP that it continues to make progress towards recovering the misappropriated funds for its 2019 and 2020 contributions. China will continue to make

every effort to recover the misappropriated sum, keep the Secretariat updated on its progress, and remit the sum to SIOFA as soon as possible.

13.2.2 Financial report

354. The Executive Secretary presented a report on financial resources (MoP-13-02) to the MoP with an overview of the budget position, annual financial statements and any funds held in reserve, in accordance with Regulation 9.3 of the Financial Regulations and Rule 8(1)(f) of the RoP.

355. **The MoP NOTED the Report on Financial Resources provided by the Secretariat in MoP-13-02.**

13.2.3 External Auditor report

356. The Executive Secretary presented the Auditor's report (MoP-13-02). The report confirmed that, in all material respects, SIOFA's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and its financial performance for the year then ended are in compliance with the SIOFA Financial Regulations.

357. **The MoP NOTED the annual financial statements and the Auditor's report presented in MoP-13-02.**

13.3 SIOFA Budget

358. Agenda item 13.3 and its sub-agenda items were discussed in a closed session.

13.3.1 Mid-year budget tracking paper with the actual expenditure

359. The 2026 mid-year budget report is available in MoP-13-INFO-04.

13.3.2 Provisional 2027 budget and 2028 forecast budget

360. The Executive Secretary presented the draft SIOFA 2027 budget in MoP-13-03-Rev2.

361. CCPs requested clarifications and modifications to the draft budget, and the MoP incorporated those changes in the 2027 budget (MoP-13-03-Rev3).

362. Information on the 2028–2029 forecast budget is available in MoP-13-03-Rev3.

363. The EU indicated its intention to host the CC11 and MoP14 meetings and to provide voluntary contributions to cover the meeting support costs and the Secretariat's travel costs, subject to further internal discussions.

364. The MoP considered the Executive Secretary's proposal to amend the Intern policy.

365. **The MoP ENDORSED setting the net internship allowance at a maximum of the gross minimum hourly wage rate fixed by the host State on 1 January each year.**

366. The MoP did not endorse the proposal to include an option to offer an intern a non-renewable six-month contract at the end of their six-month placement.

367. The MoP considered the Executive Secretary's request for clarification on the eligibility procedure for applicants seeking financial assistance to participate in the MoP and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with paragraph 10 of Annex 1 of the Financial Regulations.

368. **The MoP AGREED that if a CCP or non-cooperating party (NCP) eligible for financial assistance has funded the participation of one or more representatives using its own funds, it is eligible to apply for financial assistance to fund the participation of an additional representative.**

369. **The MoP AGREED to renew the contract of the auditor, Mr Arnaud Fayol, for a new three-year term.**

370. **The MoP reviewed and ENDORSED the SC Working Plan and the associated budget.**

371. The Executive Secretary explained that some CCPs report to the Secretariat the total catches of all species from the previous year, including tuna and billfish, which are species that would normally fall under the IOTC mandate. He explained that these species have been excluded from the calculation of the contribution until now, but some of these species are caught in SIOFA-target fisheries (i.e. oilfish and escolar fishery), while others are caught

in tuna target fisheries. He asked if these species should continue to be excluded from the calculation of the contribution as in the past and presented a number of options for the method of calculating CCPs' contributions.

372. **The MoP AGREED to continue to apply the usual calculation method for the CCPs' contributions.**

373. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to submit a paper to MoP14 that summarises the data that are submitted by CCPs that are members of both SIOFA and the IOTC to the IOTC, as well as the data that are shared by SIOFA with the IOTC and vice versa.**

13.3.3 Adoption of the budget

374. **The MoP ADOPTED the 2027 budget (Annex U), in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.7.**

375. **The MoP NOTED the forecast 2028–2029 budget.**

Agenda item 14 - Cooperation with other RFMOs, international bodies and other relevant instruments

14.1 Cooperation with CCAMLR, RFMOs and other international organisations

14.1.1 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

376. The Executive Secretary reported that members of the Secretariat continue to attend annual meetings of CCAMLR virtually. The Secretariats of SIOFA and CCAMLR are also collaborating on toothfish tagging. In addition, the Secretariat has already initiated contact with the new CCAMLR Executive Secretary.

14.1.2 South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

377. The Executive Secretary reported that the Secretariat was invited but unable to attend in-person meetings of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) this year due to human resources and time constraints but that it continues to maintain close cooperation with SEAFO.

14.1.3 South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

378. The Executive Secretary reported that the Secretariat was not able to attend the annual meeting of SWIOFC, which was held in person only, but did participate virtually in the National Workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and Related Instruments and gave a presentation. He also noted that the new Secretary of SWIOFC is Jon Lansley, who was previously SIOFA Executive Secretary, which should facilitate cooperation. He also reported that the Secretariat plans to attend the upcoming annual SWIOFC meeting, as well as the meetings of the Steering Committee of the SWIOFish5 project and the Regional Steering Committee of the EAF Nansen project that precede it, at least remotely.

379. SWIOFC noted that the founding instruments of SIOFA and SWIOFC call for close cooperation between the two organisations and expressed its intention to promote such cooperation. SWIOFC identified monitoring, control, and surveillance capacity training under SWIOP, for SWIOP-eligible countries that are members of both SWIOFC and SIOFA, as potential areas for collaboration.

14.1.4 South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)

380. The Executive Secretary reported that the Compliance Officer visited the SPRFMO Secretariat, primarily to learn about SPRFMO's VMS operations and system. The visit also provided an opportunity for the two Secretariats to discuss higher-level institutional matters.

14.1.5 Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

381. The Executive Secretary reported that ACAP was reactivated for six years on 5 November

2024, that a new Executive Secretary has been appointed, and that ACAP attended SC11, where it recommended that SIOFA harmonise CMM 13(2025) (Mitigation of Seabirds Bycatch) and CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) with international best practices implemented by other RFMOs, such as SEAFO and SPRFMO.

14.1.6 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

382. The Executive Secretary recalled the attempts made to date to formalise a framework for cooperation between the two organisations and explained that at present, cooperation between the IOTC and SIOFA is taking place outside such a framework.

14.1.7 Sustainable Western Indian Ocean (SWIO) Programme (SWIOP)

383. The Executive Secretary reported that discussions with the implementing agency of component 1.2 of the Project, Expertise France (EF), are ongoing to finalise an MoU.

384. **The MoP NOTED that there is overlap between the longline fisheries of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and major SIOFA oilfish fishing grounds. The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to seek to promote collaboration with the CCSBT, including exchanging information on CCSBT longline fisheries.**

14.2 Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)

385. The Compliance Officer presented MoP-13-15, which provided an update on developments relating to the BBNJ Agreement since the conclusion of MoP12, and the Secretariat's suggestions for future engagement with the BBNJ framework. Since MoP12, the Compliance Officer has attended the Regional Workshop on the BBNJ Agreement and the third session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom III). In this period, the BBNJ Agreement entered into force and the PrepCom process concluded. The next formal BBNJ meeting will be the first Conference of the Parties (COP1), tentatively scheduled for January 2027. While significant progress has been made towards the operationalisation of the BBNJ Agreement, substantial work remains to be undertaken, including determination of the precise modalities for collaboration, consultation, and participation with RFMOs and other international fisheries bodies (IFBs). It will therefore be important for the Secretariat to continue to engage proactively in dialogue with the COP and its subsidiary bodies to promote greater awareness and understanding of the value of RFMO-related processes and help ensure that the BBNJ framework remains coherent with, and complementary to, existing regional fisheries governance frameworks. SIOFA and other IFBs, including RFMOs, should give further attention to establishing structured, predictable, and systematic modalities for engagement with the BBNJ framework. Further attention should also be given to ensuring that data and information exchange arrangements are fully consistent with applicable confidentiality obligations and data governance requirements within RFMOs. In addition, while RFMO Secretariats may continue to provide recommendations and technical input on matters relevant to their mandates and expertise, it will be important for Parties to the BBNJ Agreement to participate proactively in forthcoming COP processes to ensure that RFMO-related considerations are appropriately reflected in the final outcomes and arrangements adopted under the BBNJ framework, including through stronger engagement of fisheries managers and administrations at the national level.

386. The MoP expressed its appreciation for the hard work by the Secretariat to engage with the BBNJ process and stay abreast of relevant developments.

387. China expressed its view that the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement must adhere to the "not-undermine" principle and that ABMTs, environmental impact assessments (EIAs), and MPAs should fully respect and complement existing measures adopted by RFMOs.

China supported granting stable and permanent formal observer status to RFMOs at the BBNJ COP. China supported the establishment of a standing institutional interaction between BBNJ scientific and technical bodies and the SCs of RFMOs to enable effective utilisation of existing regional scientific outcomes and to avoid research duplication and institutional overlap.

388. The EU highlighted the importance of CCPs that are Parties to the BBNJ Agreement ensuring that there is fisheries expertise in delegations. The EU considered this essential for maintaining close contact between RFMOs and the BBNJ process. The EU also considered that engagement between RFMOs and BBNJ bodies should be interactive and bidirectional.
389. The EU also noted some of the concerns cited by the Secretariat in MoP-13-15, namely that observer status of IFBs would not be automatic, that there was no agreement that observer states should be permanent or at least stable, and that there was no agreement to formally recognise and prioritise engagements with IFBs with mandates that will intersect and overlap with the BBNJ Agreement. Regarding the first two concerns, the EU informed the MoP that the BBNJ's draft Rules of Procedure provide that representatives of organisations that have been observers in the Intergovernmental Conference, or other instruments that are recognised, are entitled to participate as observers, which includes RFMOs. Regarding the third concern, the EU informed the MoP that the draft decision in Annex VII of the PrepCom III report mentions the need for a gradual approach towards and strategic prioritisation of early cooperation arrangements with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies whose mandates directly intersect with the objectives of the Agreement, which includes RFMOs.
390. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to continue its engagement with the BBNJ process to progressively map out any potential linkages and engagement requirements of the SIOFA with BBNJ workstreams, as well as subsidiary body input or consultation.**
391. To balance budgetary pressures, the MoP encouraged the Secretariat to consider practical online engagement and encouraged CCPs to provide appropriate updates to SIOFA meetings.
392. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to leverage the FAO Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) to establish effective linkages with other RFMOs and potential alignment with them on common decisions, thereby supporting effective and efficient BBNJ engagement.**
393. **The MoP TASKED the Secretariat to identify specific discussion points when preparing the annotated agendas for future meetings of the CC, SC, and the MoP, to facilitate focused discussion on critical decision points or consultative requirements.**
394. The EU presented an information paper on interaction between RFMOs and the BBNJ Agreement (MoP-13-INFO-08). The EU pointed out that the BBNJ Agreement recognises the role of RFMOs and should be interpreted and applied in a way that does not undermine RFMOs, but rather promotes coherence and coordination with these frameworks. The EU noted that while the BBNJ process is still taking shape, SIOFA and other RFMOs should not delay their preparations for engaging with BBNJ and should seek to participate in shaping those processes. The EU highlighted some key topics that SIOFA should consider so as to proactively prepare itself for potential future interactions with the BBNJ Agreement: Are the relevant timelines and procedures applicable in SIOFA sufficiently well known by the negotiators who are finalising the procedures for the functioning of the BBNJ Agreement? Does SIOFA have a clear and comprehensive overview of its activities and achievements available? Should SIOFA work with other RFMOs to ensure coherence in any potential contributions or information flowing between RFMOs? Is SIOFA sufficiently prepared and

equipped to deal with future requests for consultation or cooperation from BBNJ? Is there sufficient scientific capacity for such work and for dealing with future BBNJ requests? The EU informed the MoP that it intends to host an event in Brussels on 17 March 2027 to advance such discussions among RFMOs and their members, focusing on how RFMOs can prepare for the opportunities and challenges presented by the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement.

395. The MoP thanked the EU for its information paper.
396. The Executive Secretary stated that, in his experience, most RFMOs have worked actively on a common RFMO presentation and representation during the major BBNJ-related events. He noted that many of the points highlighted by the EU had also come up in a recent FAO meeting he attended. The Executive Secretary informed the MoP that the Secretariat intends to attend BBNJ COP1 in January 2027. Regarding the event that the EU will host in March, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the timing will overlap with the planned dates for the SIOFA SC.
397. China stated that it has consistently engaged in the negotiation and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement in a responsible and constructive manner. China noted that it has acted in the common interest of the international community and remains committed to promoting a just and equitable international maritime order. China stated that it attaches importance to the principle of the common heritage of humankind as enshrined in UNCLOS and supported the incorporation of this principle into the BBNJ Agreement. China noted that it also attaches great importance to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology to developing countries and supports continued international efforts to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to effectively participate in activities related to the conservation and the sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. China underscored that RFMOs, including SIOFA, continue to play an indispensable role in the conservation and management of high seas fisheries, and that the BBNJ Agreement and the relevant international mechanisms, including RFMOs, are equal in legal status, with neither subordinate to the other. China believed that SIOFA, when considering issues concerning its relationship with the BBNJ Agreement, is fully observing the “not-undermine” principle in Article 5 of the BBNJ Agreement, and that SIOFA, as appropriate, may engage with the COP or the PrepCom of the BBNJ Agreement to determine appropriate arrangements for cooperation and coordination while fully preserving its authority and autonomy.
398. Australia agreed with the EU that the BBNJ process is still under construction and that there is an opportunity for Parties to the BBNJ Agreement to help shape its modalities. Australia agreed with the importance of Parties to the BBNJ Agreement having fisheries expertise on their delegations and engaging in internal coordination to ensure that RFMO measures are considered in the development of BBNJ proposals. Australia believed that interactions between the BBNJ Agreement and different international frameworks, including RFMOs, need to be treated as complementary and not a competition or hierarchical. Australia emphasised that both RFMOs and the BBNJ Agreement will provide value to one another.
399. Chinese Taipei recognised the importance of the BBNJ Agreement for promoting the sustainable management and use of marine living resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction and hoped that all CCPs would continue to engage in discussions on BBNJ-related matters in an open and inclusive manner.
400. Mauritius stated that it has ratified the BBNJ Agreement, reaffirming its strong commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Mauritius stated that, as a SIDS with a vast ocean area and

significant dependence on marine resources, it attaches great importance to ensuring that the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement is inclusive, equitable and supportive of all developing States. Mauritius underlined the important role of RFMOs, including SIOFA, in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, with established scientific expertise, management frameworks, and practical experience.

401. The IOTC shared its experience in collaborating with the BBNJ process. The IOTC explained that it has recently adopted a binding Resolution on promoting the objectives of IOTC through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement, which has provided the Secretariat with a mandate to participate in the BBNJ process and has enabled the Secretariat to provide feedback as to what the developments are and what the implications might be. The IOTC also noted that IFBs are recognised by the BBNJ Agreement to be very important for implementing many of the processes that the BBNJ will put in place and that RFMO participation can provide some complementary perspectives in the BBNJ process, whose participants are primarily from environmental or conservation backgrounds. The IOTC suggested that, with the SIOFA and the IOTC being two of the major RFMOs in the region, having some kind of compatible commitment to the process, such as the resolution proposed by France (OT), would help to streamline collaboration between the two organisations. The IOTC also emphasised that the main drivers of the BBNJ process will not be RFMO Secretariats, but the RFMO members that are also Parties to the BBNJ Agreement.
402. The MoP encouraged CCPs that are Parties to the BBNJ Agreement to promote close coordination between their delegations to the BBNJ process and their fisheries authorities.

14.3 Cooperation with FAO

403. The Executive Secretary presented MoP-13-INFO-10, which provided information about SIOFA's participation in the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP). He explained that SC11 tasked the Secretariat with coordinating with FAO to establish a new code and fishery gear definition for benthopelagic trawls. To achieve this, SIOFA needed to join the CWP, an FAO working group that coordinates fishery statistics programs among regional fishery bodies and other intergovernmental organisations. Membership in the CWP carries no direct costs, and meetings are held in a hybrid format approximately every three years, with most work conducted through written exchanges or short online meetings. Consequently, joining the CWP is unlikely to impact SIOFA's financial or human resources. The Executive Secretary has submitted a formal membership request to the CWP Secretary, with the approval of the SIOFA Chairs. The request is now being circulated to CWP Members for endorsement within three months. FAO is expected to formally acknowledge SIOFA's membership in September 2026.

14.3.1 FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project

404. The Executive Secretary reported that the Science Officer cooperated and participated in various FAO-DSF II meetings and activities, including the Steering Committee meeting, the Nansen cruise, and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Symposium. The Executive Secretary also reported that he attended an FAO workshop on developing guidance for improved implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), the precautionary approach and climate change considerations by deep-sea RFMOs and an FAO workshop on strengthening the strategic vision for fisheries communications, engagement and outreach, in relation to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ.
405. The FAO-DSF presented MoP-13-INFO-19, which provided an overview of the DSF Project's recent and upcoming activities relevant to SIOFA. Key achievements include a workshop on catch reporting of deepwater sharks, a workshop on cross-sectoral interactions with deep-

sea fisheries, an online workshop on integrating climate change considerations by RFMOs, a workshop on developing guidance on the implementation of EAFM, a workshop on RFMO communications and outreach, the launch of a digital deepwater shark identification guide, the development of data-limited stock assessment methodologies, mapping of deep-sea fisheries in the ABNJ, and a joint cruise with R/V Nansen in the SIOFA Area. The DSF Project ends in May 2027 and the proposal for another phase is under development.

406. The Executive Secretary introduced MoP-13-INFO-20, which provided an overview of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Implementation Monitoring Tool (EAF-IMT) developed by FAO under the EAF-Nansen Program. The EAF-IMT provides a practical framework for assessing and monitoring progress towards EAF implementation.

14.3.2 FAO Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN)

407. The Executive Secretary reported that SIOFA continues to engage with the RSN and that this collaboration is fruitful. He also pointed out that coordination among RFMO Secretariats helps to more effectively champion the role of RFMOs in the management of fishery resources.

14.3.3 FAO FIRMS

408. The Executive Secretary reported that the Science Officer completed the annual submission of aggregated data to the FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) and the update of the SIOFA FIRMS factsheets.

Agenda item 15 – Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs)

15.1 Renewal of CNCP status

409. The MoP acknowledged that Comoros had written to the Secretariat on 4 May 2026 to apply to retain its CNCP status (MoP-13-08).
410. Comoros expressed its commitment to complying with the SIOFA CMMs and the Agreement and informed the MoP that it is currently reviewing its national regulation to enhance its compliance with them.
411. **The MoP AGREED that Comoros qualifies to retain its CNCP status in 2026.**
412. The MoP acknowledged that India had written to the Secretariat on 24 April 2026 to apply to retain its CNCP status (MoP-13-08).
413. India expressed its commitment to continuing to cooperate and collaborate with SIOFA to ensure the sustainable management and use of fisheries resources. India informed the MoP that it does not conduct fishing operations in the SIOFA Area, but it is interested in potentially conducting such fishing operations in the future.
414. **The MoP AGREED that India qualifies to retain its CNCP status in 2026.**

Agenda item 16 – Future Chairing arrangements

16.1 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SC

415. **The MoP NOTED that Mr Alistair Dunn had completed the first year of his two-year term as the SC Chairperson.**
416. **The MoP NOTED that the SC agreed to re-elect Dr Zhou Fang (China) as a SC Vice Chairperson.**
417. **The MoP NOTED that Ms Charlotte Chazeau (France Overseas Territory) had completed the first year of her two-year term as a SC Vice Chairperson.**

16.2 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee

418. **The MoP NOTED that the CC agreed to re-elect Mrs Meera Koonjul (Mauritius) to serve as the CC Chairperson for another two-year term.**
419. **The MoP NOTED that the CC agreed to re-elect Mr Patrick Sachs (Australia) to serve as**

the CC Vice Chairperson for another two-year term.

16.3 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties

420. **The Meeting of the Parties AGREED that Ms Fiona Harford (EU) would serve as its Chairperson and that Mr Lualua Tua-Trood (Cook Islands) would serve as its Vice-Chairperson from the conclusion of the 13th Meeting of the Parties to the conclusion of the 14th Meeting of the Parties.**

Agenda item 17 – Any other business

421. France (OT) introduced MoP-13-INFO-22, which provided an overview of the mission carried out by the *OSIRIS II* patrol vessel in the French Southern Territories and the Agreement Area from 11 February to 9 March 2026.
422. France (OT) encouraged other CCPs to conduct patrols in the Agreement Area.
423. Pew introduced MoP-13-INFO-11, which outlined ways in which RFMOs can assist with the implementation of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

17.1 2025 Nansen Survey in the SIOFA Area

424. The Science Officer presented MoP-13-INFO-05, which provided a summary report of the Nansen survey conducted from 20 November to 10 December 2025 in the SIOFA Area. The cruise generated substantial new knowledge on poorly understood seamount ecosystems in the SIOFA Area, combining oceanographic, habitat, and biological data across multiple scales to reveal emerging patterns in these complex environments. It significantly advanced understanding of deep-sea biodiversity, including the first-ever video records of certain shark species. By integrating complementary methods, such as eDNA, physical sampling, and baited remote underwater video (BRUV) surveys, the expedition filled critical data gaps on species presence, distribution, and life history, while also testing innovative tools like digital identification keys. In addition, observations of seabirds and marine mammals provided valuable indicators of ecosystem health and predator-prey dynamics, strengthening the scientific basis for ecosystem-based management and long-term conservation planning in the region. As noted by the SC in paragraph 423 of the SC11 report, the survey was conducted according to the requirements set out by the MoP and the SC and all necessary data from the cruise have been submitted to SIOFA.
425. The MoP offered its congratulations on the development of the Bendicam that enabled such high quality images at such a depth.
426. **The MoP NOTED the highly valuable scientific work produced by the Nansen survey and thanked the EAF-Nansen Programme and the FAO Common Oceans Programme for facilitating this work.**
427. **The MoP NOTED that the Nansen survey in the SIOFA Area met the conditions that the MoP had established for it in 2024.**
428. **The MoP NOTED the value of the data generated from the Nansen survey, particularly for future reviews of the SIOFA BFCs, and TASKED the SC to develop a timetable for analysing these data.**
429. **The MoP NOTED the value of continued collaboration with the EAF-Nansen Programme and AGREED to continue to explore opportunities for additional surveys in the future.**

Agenda item 18 – 2026 meeting arrangements

430. **The EU requested to host the 11th meeting of the CC and the 14th Meeting of the Parties.**
431. **The MoP NOTED that in accordance with Rule 1, paragraph 2 of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure, the 2027 MoP meeting would normally be held in Mauritius. The MoP AGREED that the 2027 meetings of the CC and MoP could exceptionally be held in the**

EU.

- 432. **Mauritius confirmed its intention to host the 12th meeting of the SC.**
- 433. **The MoP AGREED that the 12th meeting of the SC will take place from 15 to 24 March 2027 in Mauritius.**
- 434. **The MoP AGREED that the 11th meeting of the CC will take place from 1 to 2 July 2027 and the 14th Meeting of the Parties will take place from 5 to 9 July 2027 in Brussels, Belgium.**
- 435. **The MoP NOTED that CC11 would be the first time that the duration of the CC would be shortened from three days to two days and AGREED that the meeting could be extended to 3 July 2027 if necessary.**
- 436. The MoP thanked Mauritius for its proposal to host the SC12 meeting.
- 437. The MoP thanked the EU for its proposal to host the CC11 and MoP14 meetings.

Agenda item 19 – Report adoption

- 438. **The MoP ADOPTED the report of its 13th ordinary meeting at 6:00 p.m., 10 July 2026.**

Agenda item 20 – Meeting closure

- 439. The MoP thanked the Chairperson for her excellent leadership.
- 440. The MoP also thanked the rapporteur for his excellent work, the Secretariat for organising the meeting, the interpreters for their wonderful work, the technical staff for their support, and Seychelles for their hospitality and hosting the meeting in their beautiful country.
- 441. The Chairperson thanked the participants, the Secretariat, and all the support staff for their cooperation and assistance.
- 442. The DSCC expressed its appreciation to the MoP and to the Chairperson for facilitating the DSCC's active participation despite not being present in person.
- 443. The meeting was closed at 6:05 p.m., 10 July 2026.

Draft Opening Speech

by Mr Wallace Cosgrow,
Principal Minister, Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Republic of
Seychelles,

to the 13th Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Mahé, Seychelles

6 July 2026

Madam Chair,
Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Seychelles, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our distinguished delegates to our shores for this Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.

We are privileged to host this important gathering in Seychelles, and to welcome representatives from across the Southern Indian Ocean and beyond. Your presence here demonstrates our collective commitment to the sustainable management and conservation of marine living resources in one of the world's most ecologically significant ocean regions.

The Southern Indian Ocean is not only a hotspot of biodiversity and focus of scientific interest, it is also of immense importance to food security, livelihoods and economic development for many coastal and island States.

As Seychelles celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its Independence this year, we are reminded that, for a Small Island Developing State such as ours, the ocean has always been at the heart of our nation's history, identity and development. It sustains our economy, shapes our culture and underpins our future prosperity.

However, our small size, remoteness and exposure to environmental change make Seychelles inherently vulnerable. Consequently, we disproportionately experience the impact of global crises, while those same factors also underpin our dependency on the ocean and its resources. This is why Seychelles remains steadfast in its commitment to the sustainable management and conservation of marine living resources and to strengthening international cooperation through organisations such as SIOFA.

This year's meeting takes place at a particularly significant moment for ocean governance.

Earlier this year, on 17 January, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, commonly known as the BBNJ Agreement or High Seas Treaty, entered into force. This landmark achievement marks the beginning of a new chapter in the governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction and reinforces the importance of

cooperation, coordination and complementarity among international organisations, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements.

For SIOFA, this development presents both opportunity and responsibility. As a relatively young organisation, SIOFA has the opportunity to position itself as a forward-looking and responsive regional fisheries management organisation, one that embraces science, strengthens ecosystem-based management and contributes meaningfully to broader international efforts to conserve marine biodiversity while ensuring the sustainable use of marine living resources.

Together, we have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership by showing that regional fisheries management organisations are indispensable partners in delivering both sustainable fisheries and beneficial outcomes for ocean ecosystems. The Southern Indian Ocean hosts remarkable and vulnerable marine ecosystems. Protecting these ecosystems while supporting sustainable fisheries demands that we continue investing in science, data collection, monitoring and adaptive management. The work of our Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee reminds us that precaution is not an obstacle to sustainable use; it is the foundation upon which sustainability rests.

I am encouraged that our agenda this week reflects this ambition. Notably, it includes the ongoing consideration of recommendations from the SIOFA Performance Review, the continued operationalisation of our Vessel Monitoring System, and several proposals for key conservation and management measures. Furthermore, we will address new and exploratory fisheries, strengthen our compliance and monitoring frameworks, and discuss practical mechanisms to meet the capacity building needs of developing States under Article 13 of the Agreement.

These are not merely administrative matters. They are the building blocks of effective governance. They determine our collective ability to make informed, transparent and science-based decisions, while ensuring that all members can participate effectively and equitably in the work of this organisation.

Indeed, many of the priorities identified by FAO are already reflected in the work programme of SIOFA. Our efforts to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, to apply precautionary approaches to new and exploratory fisheries, to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance, and to improve data collection and scientific assessments are precisely the kind of measures that global evidence shows are necessary to safeguard marine resources and biodiversity.

The findings presented in FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2026 report are particularly instructive. The report concludes that while aquatic food production has reached unprecedented levels, and continues to play an increasingly important role in global food security, the proportion of marine fish stocks that remain biologically sustainable continues to decline. At the same time, the report provides a clear and encouraging message: 'fisheries that are managed under strong governance frameworks, supported by science and effective compliance mechanisms, perform significantly better than those that are not'.

This message should resonate strongly with all of us gathered here today.

The FAO report also emphasises the growing importance of ecosystem-based and adaptive management approaches in the face of climate change and increasing pressures on ocean

ecosystems. For SIOFA, whose area of competence encompasses ecosystems of exceptional ecological value, this message is particularly pertinent. The seamounts and deep-water habitats of the Southern Indian Ocean are reservoirs of biodiversity and ecological productivity that require careful stewardship and long-term vision.

As we embark on our deliberations over the coming days, let us remain guided by our shared responsibility to ensure that the resources of the Southern Indian Ocean are managed sustainably, equitably and for the benefit of present and future generations.

I wish you all productive and constructive discussions, and I trust that the spirit of cooperation and partnership that defines SIOFA will continue to guide our work.

As a Small Island Developing State whose history, culture and prosperity are inseparable from the ocean, we are pleased to share with you not only our meeting facilities, but also our natural heritage and the island spirit that defines our nation.

Yesterday, some of you had the opportunity to experience a cultural tour of our island, organised by us as your host. I hope this offered you a small taste of what our islands have to offer.

While the tour may have been brief, we trust it has given you an appreciation of the warmth and uniqueness of Seychelles. I sincerely hope that this will inspire you to return in future to discover more of our 115 islands, and all that they have to offer.

For those who did not have the opportunity, I hope you take a moment from your busy schedule to also savour the Seychelles experience.

I wish you fruitful deliberations, successful outcomes and a most enjoyable stay.

Thank you.

Opening Statement MoP Chairperson -MoP13

Distinguished Minister,
Distinguished Vice-Chair,
Distinguished delegates and representatives of observer organizations,
Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure, honour and privilege to welcome you to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, here in beautiful Beau Vallon, on the island of Mahé, Seychelles.

[If the Minister is still present:] Before I begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister for being with us today and for your inspiring opening remarks. Your words are a source of inspiration that will guide our work.

I would first like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Government of Seychelles and the fisheries authorities for hosting this meeting and for the outstanding organization of this event. We are deeply grateful for the warm hospitality and generous welcome you have shown us. Many of us have travelled a long way to be here, and I believe we can all agree that Seychelles has made the journey truly worthwhile.

It is also particularly meaningful that our meeting is taking place during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the independence of Seychelles.

Besides, yesterday's tour gave us the chance to discover some of the island's beautiful highlights and to share a pleasant and convivial moment together.

Let me warmly welcome all delegates and participants, and thank you for your presence and commitment throughout this week's meeting. A special acknowledgement also goes to those delegations joining us remotely this year.

My sincere thankfulness goes to the SIOFA Secretariat for the tremendous work that has gone into preparing this meeting, as well as for its continuous support over the past year.

Finally, let me express my gratitude in advance to our interpreters and particularly for their flexibility in accommodating my occasional switches between English and French.

Now, Colleagues. Regional cooperation remains the cornerstone of sustainable fisheries management. SIOFA is an excellent example of what such cooperation can accomplish. Nevertheless, some, or several, challenges remain before us.

We have achieved great progress in the management of toothfish, nonetheless there is still important work ahead to ensure that all fisheries and species under SIOFA's mandate benefit from effective conservation and sustainable management.

The international legal framework is also evolving, particularly with the recent developments on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. As a high seas RFMO, SIOFA has already demonstrated its ability to adopt effective area-based management measures, and also benefits from essential implementation and compliance mechanisms for the high seas, including its High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme. In doing so, SIOFA provides a valuable example of how RFMOs can contribute to this evolving global ocean governance framework.

Hence, over the coming days, we have an ambitious work plan ahead of us. Let us build on the positive and spiritual fruit energy we shared yesterday, to achieve meaningful outcomes.

If we work efficiently together, I am confident that we will conclude our agenda in good time and have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings beyond this meeting room.

Wishing us all a constructive and successful meeting, I now declare the Thirteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement opened.

Merci et bon courage !

List of Registered Participants (MoP13)

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

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

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
European Union	Ms	Sifra	Blokuis	Advisor	remote
European Union	Ms	Margarita	Mancebo Robledo	Advisor	remote
European Union	Mr	Luis	Belmonte González	Advisor	in person
European Union	Mr	Jonathan	Vila Graña	Advisor	in person
European Union	Ms	Elodie	Seznec	Advisor	in person
European Union	Mr	Joost	Pompert	Advisor	remote
European Union	Ms	Ángela	Cortina	Advisor	remote
France-OT	Ms	Adèle	Moisan	Head of Delegation	in person
France-OT	Ms	Juliette	Haziza	Alternate	remote
France-OT	Ms	Charlotte	Chazeau	SC vice chair	in person
France-OT	Mr	Alexis	Martin	SC FR-OT HoD	remote
Japan	Mr	Taisuke	Iwano	Head of Delegation	in person
Japan	Mr	Fumiya	Takahashi	Alternate	in person
Japan	Mr	Hideki	Moronuki	Advisor	in person
Japan	Mr	Takeshi	Shibata	Advisor	in person
Japan	Dr	Takehiro	Okuda	Advisor	in person
Japan	Mr	Hyoue	Suzuki	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Koji	Batori	Advisor	remote
Japan	Ms	Yasuko	Kyo	Advisor	remote
Japan	Mr	Hidefumi	Yatomi	Advisor	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Japan	Ms	Shiho	Morimoto	Advisor	remote
Republic of Korea	Ms	Soomin	Kim	Advisor	remote
Mauritius	Mrs	Meera	Koonjul	Head of Delegation /CC Chair	in person
Mauritius	Mr	Doorvanand	Kawol	Alternate	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Roy	Clarisse	Head of Delegation	in person
Seychelles	Mrs	Julie	Bibi	Alternate	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Elisa	Radegonde	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Vincent	Lucas	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Roddy	Allisop	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mrs	Karyss	Belle	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Daniel	Bristol	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Danielle	Jupiter	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Mr	Jan	Robinson	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Yannick	Roucou	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Petra	Morel	Expert	remote
Seychelles	Ms	Sheriffa	Morel	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Stephanie	Radegonde	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mrs	Irene	Sirame	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Veronique	Nibourette	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Chrissant	Barbe	Expert	in person

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Seychelles	Ms	Ashley	Dias	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Howard	Tan	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Steve	Lin	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Ms	Julie	Barra	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mr	Alain	De Comarmond	Expert	in person
Seychelles	Mrs.	Sabrena	Lawrence	Expert	remote
Chinese Taipei	Ms	I-Lu	Lai	Head of Delegation	in person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Wei-Chen	Hung	Alternate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Wen-Ning	Chang	Adviser	in person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Po-Hsiang	Liao	Adviser	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Chia-Ti	Li	Delegate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Mr	Kuan-Ting	Lee	Delegate	in person
Chinese Taipei	Ms	Ching-Han	Huang	Delegate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Prathet	Sorrak	Head of Delegation	in person
Thailand	Mr	Udomsin	Auksonphaob	Alternate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Thanakrit	Chanthaphat	Alternate	in person
Thailand	Mr	Pavarot	Noranarttragoon	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mrs	Lukhana	Boonsongsrikul	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Puritatt	Watcharasin	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Jaruwan	Songphatkaew	Adviser	remote

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Thailand	Mr	Weerapol	Thitipongtrakul	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Supranee	Chatthong	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Jidapa	Setthatham	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Prasit	Luesrithawornsin	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Kanyarat	Woraprayoth	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Praphayapath	Thonroshrapee	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Woramate	Chatinakrob	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Ms	Supanaree	Boonsri	Adviser	remote
Thailand	Mr	Titipat	Tongdonkruang	Adviser	remote
Comoros	Mr	Mohamed	Ali Mohamed	Head of Delegation	in person
India	Dr	Surabhi	Rai		remote
India	Dr	Mohammed K.	Koya		remote
India	Dr	Sreenath K.	Ramanathan		remote
India	Dr	Sijo P.	Varghese		remote
India	Dr	Sanjay	Pandey		remote
India	Dr	Nitin	Verma		remote
Observers					
South Africa	Mr.	Saasa	Pheeha	Head of Delegation	in person
South Africa	Mr.	Thabiso	Maratsane	Alternate	remote
Sri Lanka	Mr	Susantha	Kahawatta	Head of Delegation	in person

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
Sri Lanka	Dr	Nuwan	Gunawardane	Alternate	in person
PEW	Dr	Glen	Holmes	Head of Delegation	in person
PEW	Ms	Brittany	Croll	Alternate	remote
DSCC	Dr	Lynda (Lyn)	Goldsworthy	Head of Delegation	remote
DSCC	Mr	Barry	Weeber	Alternate	remote
SIODFA	Mr	Charles	Heaphy	Head of Delegation	in person
SIODFA	Dr	Ross	Shotton	Alternate	remote
IOTC	Dr	Paul	de Bruyn	Head of Delegation	in person
EJF	Mr	Dominic	Thomson	Head of Delegation	remote
FAO	Ms	Eszter	Hidas	Head of Delegation	remote
FAO	Ms	Sarah	Fagnani	Alternate	remote
SEAFO	Mrs	Lizette	Voges	Head of Delegation	remote
WWF	Mr	Lalaina	Rakotonaivo	Head of Delegation	in person
WWF	Mr	Matt	Spencer	Alternate	remote
JMA	Mr	Phillippe	Michaud	Head of Delegation	in person
SWIOFC	Mr	Jon	Lansley	Head of Delegation	remote
Secretariat and support					
SIOFA SC Chair	Mr	Alistair	Dunn	SC Chair	in person
Rapporteur	Mr	Alex	Meyer	Rapporteur	in person
Interpreter	Mr	James	Christie	Interpreter	in person

Delegation	Title	First Name	Last Name	Role	Mode
interpreter	Ms	Pauline	Chardin	Interpreter	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Thierry	Clot	Executive Secretary	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Pierre	Peries	Data Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Mr	Johnny	Louys	Compliance Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Dr	Marco	Milardi	Science Officer	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Ms	Hansa	Gennoo	ICT Expert	in person
SIOFA Secretariat	Ms	Eleonore	Guglielmi-Talamon	Intern Assistant	in person
Invited Experts					
Invited Experts	Ms	Kerrie	Robertson	Consultant	remote

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Organisation des
Nations Unies pour
l'alimentation et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Fax: +39 0657053152

Tel: +39 0657051

www.fao.org

Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

Rome, 24 April 2026

Dear Mr Clot,

I confirm that, as of today, 24 April 2026, the status of participation in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) is correctly reflected on the FAO website. Please find attached for your easy reference the information contained in the above-mentioned website.

I also wish to inform you that, to date, the Depositary has not received any instrument of accession to the Agreement or any related communication from India.

Yours sincerely,

Donata Rugarabamu
Assistant Director-General / Legal Counsel

Mr Thierry CLOT
Executive Secretary
SIOFA

Annex I

SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT (SIOFA)
adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rome, Italy on 7 July 2006

Registered with the United Nations under N° 49647 on 21 June 2012

Countries	Signed	Ratification	Acceptance	Approval	Accession
Australia	29 Dec 2006	23 Mar 2012			
China					23 Oct 2019
Comoros	7 Jul 2006				
Cook Islands					5 Jun 2008
European Union	7 Jul 2006			15 Oct 2008	
France	7 Jul 2006	25 Jan 2013			
Japan					17 Jun 2014
Kenya	7 Jul 2006				
Madagascar	4 Oct 2006				
Mauritius	5 July 2007	10 Dec 2010			
Mozambique	7 Jul 2006				
New Zealand	7 Jul 2006				
Republic of Korea					29 Oct 2014
Seychelles	7 July 2006	5 Nov 2007			
Thailand					21 Apr 2017

Agenda of the 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)

This meeting will be held at the hotel "Savoy Resort & Spa Seychelles" in Beau Vallon, Seychelles.

A Heads of Delegation meeting will take place on Monday 6th July from 08:00 to 09:00 local time.

The meeting will start at 09:00 local time (UTC +4:00).

1. Opening of the meeting

- 1.1. Opening statements
- 1.2. Practical arrangements for the meeting
- 1.3. Admission of observers
- 1.4. Status of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement [and its observers.]
- 1.5. Participation in decision-making

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2. Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3. Appointment of rapporteurs

3. Intersessional Decision-Making

- 3.1. Review of intersessional decisions taken since MoP12

Intersessional Decision ID-2025-I

4. Compliance Committee (CC) and Report of the CC10

Discussion of the CC recommendations to the MoP

- 4.1. Presentation of the report of the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee
- 4.2. SIOFA Compliance Report (SCR)

The Meeting of the Parties shall consider the Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR) prepared by the CC and any comments from CCPs on their respective sections of the pSCR. The Meeting of the Parties shall adopt by consensus a Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR) at its ordinary meeting in accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement and Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure (ref. CMM 11 para 22).

- 4.3. Listing of IUU fishing vessels

The Meeting of the Parties shall review the Provisional IUU Vessel List, considering any new suitably documented information [...] and adopt a new IUU Vessel List (ref CMM 06(2024))

- 4.4. Recommendations from the Compliance Committee on current SIOFA CMMs

- 4.5. Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS

4.5.1. Update of Workplan & Progress Toward Operationalization of the SIOFA VMS

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

- 4.6. Other recommendations from the Compliance Committee

4.6.1. Discussion on the CC ToRs

5. Scientific Committee (SC) and Report of the SC11

Discussion of the SC recommendations to the MoP

5.1. Presentation of the Report of the 11th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC11)

- 5.1.1. Fisheries Reports
- 5.1.2. Data Standards, Access and Dissemination
- 5.1.3. SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment
- 5.1.4. SIOFA Precautionary Approach and Management (PAM)
- 5.1.5. Stock assessments and advice
- 5.1.6. Bycatch and incidental captures
- 5.1.7. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)
- 5.1.8. Benthic Fisheries Closures CMM 18(2025) and marine protected areas
- 5.1.9. New and Exploratory Fisheries CMM 17(2025)
- 5.1.10. Framework for research cruises and scientific research in the SIOFA Area
- 5.1.11. Scientific Observers
- 5.1.12. Future work
- 5.1.13. Other recommendations

6. Climate change

- 6.1. Identification of advice required from Scientific Committee on the implications of climate change on SIOFA fisheries

7. New and Exploratory Fisheries

- 7.1. New Fisheries
- 7.2. Exploratory Fisheries
- 7.3. Scientific Research
 - 7.3.1. Follow up on scientific research activities by RV *Atlantida* in the SIOFA Area
 - 7.3.2. Research Cruise planned for Saya De Malha.

8. Data access and dissemination

- 8.1. Data and security audits implementation update
- 8.2. Review of the criteria and process by which papers are classified and implications for the RoP

9. Interim bottom fishing measures

- 9.1. States or fishing entities that became CCPs before the MoP in 2017 – revision to measures established under CMM 01(2025).
- 9.2. States or fishing entities that became CCPs after the MoP in 2017 – approval of measures pursuant to paragraph 28 of CMM 01(2025).

10. Review and amendment of Conservation Management Measures (CMMs) currently in force.

Standing agenda item for the presentation of reviews or proposed amendments to existing CMMs and possible adoption

11. New Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

Standing agenda item for the presentation of any proposals of new CMMs and possible adoption

12. Capacity building needs for developing States

- 12.1. Technical assistance needed for the implementations of obligations
- 12.2. Review of the options to facilitate and address the capacity building need of CCP developing States

13. Secretariat administration

- 13.1. Report on the Secretariat activities (since MoP12)
 - 13.1.1. Action done relative to SIOFA Performance Review recommendations
 - 13.1.2. Secretariat activities
- 13.2. Financial status (close session)
 - 13.2.1. Update on the 2020 fraud.
 - 13.2.2. Financial report.
 - 13.2.3. External Auditor report.
- 13.3. SIOFA Budget (close session)
 - 13.3.1. Mid-year budget tracking paper with the actual expenditure.
 - 13.3.2. Provisional 2027 budget and 2028 forecast budget.
 - 13.3.3. Adoption of the budget.

14. Cooperation with other RFMOs, international bodies and other relevant instruments

- 14.1. Cooperation with CCAMLR, RFMOs and other international organisations
 - 14.1.1. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
 - 14.1.2. South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)
 - 14.1.3. South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
 - 14.1.4. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
 - 14.1.5. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)
 - 14.1.6. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
 - 14.1.7. Sustainable Western Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP)
- 14.2. Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)
- 14.3. Cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - 14.3.1. FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Fisheries Project
 - 14.3.2. FAO Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RFBSN)
 - 14.3.3. FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

15. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties

- 15.1. Renewal of CNCP status

16. Future Chairing arrangements

- 16.1. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SC
 - The SC Chair was renewed in July 2025 for a two-year term, which will expire in July 2027.*
- 16.2. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee
- 16.3. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties

In accordance with Rule 5 of the RoP, the Chair of the Meeting of Parties will be held by the European Union, and the Vice Chair of the MoP will be held by Cook Islands for the 2026-2027.

17. Any other business

17.1. 2025 Nansen Survey in the SIOFA Area.

18. 2027 meeting arrangements

19. Report adoption

20. Meeting closure

MoP-13-ADM-06 - List of Meeting Documents

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

Admin Papers

MoP-13-ADM-01	Registration Form	None	
MoP-13-ADM-02	Template for Meeting Documents	None	
MoP-13-ADM-03	Provisional Agenda	2.1	
MoP-13-ADM-04	List of Meeting Documents (This paper)	2.2	
MoP-13-ADM-05	Tentative Schedule		
MoP-13-ADM-06	List of MoP13 Participants	1.3,2.3	

Working Papers & Proposals

MoP-13-01	Report on the Secretariat Activities	13.1.2	
MoP-13-02	SIOFA Financial Report	13.2.2	Closed session
MoP-13-03 Rev1	Draft Budget 2027 and 2028-2029 Forecast	13.3.2	Closed Session
MoP-13-04 Rev1	Current SIOFA IUU Vessel List	4.3	
MoP-13-05 Rev1	Report and Recommendations of the 11 th Annual Meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee	5.1	
MoP-13-06	SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations	13.1.1	
MoP-13-07 Rev 1	Review of the Options to Facilitate and Address the Capacity Building need of CCP Developing States including Article 13	121.2	
MoP-13-08	Review of the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs)	15.1	
MoP-13-09	Review of Recommendations from the Final SIOFA Compliance Reports (fSCR) Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties	4.4	
MoP-13-10	Update of Workplan & Progress Towards Operationalisation of the SIOFA VMS	4.5.1	
MoP-13-11 Rev2	Potential Amendments to SIOFA CMMs and the Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS	4.5.2	
MoP-13-12	SIOFA Meeting Document Framework	8.2	
MoP-13-13 Rev1	Data and Security Audits Implementation 2026 Update	8.1	Restricted
MoP-13-14	Draft SIOFA ISSP	8.1	Restricted
MoP-13-15	Developments Related to the Agreement under the UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	14.2	

Document Number	Document Title	Agenda Item	Other Notes
MoP-13-16	Provisional SIOFA IUU Vessel List (pSCR)	4.3	Restricted
MoP-13-17	Report and Recommendations of CC10	4.1 / 4.4	
MoP-13-18	Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report	4.2	Restricted
MoP-13-19	China Proposal for a New CMM for Fishery Independent Research Cruise	11	
MoP-13-20	China Proposal to Amend CMM 10 (2023) Monitoring	10	
MoP-13-21	Cook Islands Proposal for a New CMM for a SIOFA Allocation Framework	11	
MoP-13-22	Australia Proposal to Amend CMM 15 (2025) Management of Demersal Stocks	10	
MoP-13-23 Rev1	Japan Proposal to Amend CMM 17 (2025) New and Exploratory Fisheries	10	
MoP-13-24	Mauritius Proposal to Amend CMM 11 (2020) Compliance Monitoring Scheme	10	
MoP-13-25	Mauritius Proposal to Amend CMM 17 (2025) New and Exploratory Fisheries	10	
MoP-13-26	EU Proposal to Amend CMM 15 (2025) Management of Demersal Stocks	10	
MoP-13-27	EU Proposal for a New CMM for Scientific Research by Research Vessel	11	
MoP-13-28	EU Proposal for a New CMM for Scientific Research by Fishing Vessel	11	
MoP-13-29 Rev1	MUS Proposal for an Alternate Method to Collect Data Required by Paragraph 12 of CMM 02 (2025) on Data Standards in Order to Exclude Mauritius Semi-industrial Fishery to Embark Observers	10	
MoP-13-30	Draft Plan on the Research Cruise of China for 2026-2027 Survey Year	7.3	
MoP-13-31	Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement	12	
MoP-13-32	Proposal for a New CMM on Promoting the Objectives of SIOFA through Cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement	11	Late submission

Info Papers

MoP-13-INFO-01	Outcome of the Pilot Phase for the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System	4.5	
MoP-13-INFO-02	EJF vessel briefing: Chinese-flagged light seiner vessels operating in the Northwest Indian Ocean	17	
MoP-13-INFO-03	SIOFA status FAO repository	1.4	
MoP-13-INFO-04	Mid-Year Budget Report	13.3.1	
MoP-13-INFO-05	Nansen cruise summary	5.1.9	
MoP-13-INFO-06	Follow up on scientific research activities by RV Atlantida in the SIOFA Area	7.3.1	
MoP-13-INFO-07	Review of Intersessional decision taken since MoP12	3.1	

Document Number	Document Title	Agenda Item	Other Notes
MoP-13-INFO-08	The interaction between Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction	14.2	
MoP-13-INFO-09	An overview of the SIOFA Precautionary Approach Framework	5.1.4	
MoP-13-INFO-10	SIOFA participation in the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)	14.3	
MoP-13-INFO-11	How Regional Fisheries Managers Can Help End Harmful Subsidies.	17	
MoP-13-INFO-12	Statement from The Pew Charitable Trusts to the 13 th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA	1.1	
MoP-13-INFO-13	A New Self-Assessment Tool to Evaluate a Country's Capacity to Engage in RFMO Compliance Review Processes	[12.2]	
MoP-13-INFO-14	Progress towards effective protection of Seamounts	TBC	
MoP-13-INFO-15	Coordinated SIOFA Measures for New and Exploratory Fisheries, Research Cruises and Scientific Research using Fishing Vessels	TBC	
MoP-13-INFO-16	Sri Lanka's Fisheries Sector and Interest in Cooperation with the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	1.3 / 17	
MoP-13-INFO-17	Identification of Seamount Ecosystems as a Contribution building a SIOFA VME Register	TBC	
MoP-13-INFO-18	Thailand's Research Cruise Plan for the Saya de Malha Bank	TBC	
MoP-13-INFO-19	FAO Deep Sea Fisheries (DSF) Project - Overview of activities 2022-2026		
MoP-13-INFO-20	The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Implementation Monitoring Tool (EAF-IMT)		
MoP-13-INFO-21	Modernisation and Redesign of the SIOFA Website	13.1.2	
MoP-13-INFO-22	Patrol in the French Southern Territories and SIOFA area	TBC	

Final SIOFA Compliance Report

Summary of Compliance Issues

Assessment Period 1 January – 31 December 2025, inclusive

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

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Final Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
							the master of the vessel to the SIOFA Secretariat.		
France (OT)	Table 17	CMM 18 (2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures)	8. Until such time that CCPs' flagged vessels automatically report VMS position reports in accordance with CMM 16, the Master of any CCP's flagged vessel transiting through a BFC shall report to the Secretariat and its flag CCP 4 hours prior to entering and exiting a BFC.	New CMM	Compliant	FT -OT has indicated that the CMM does not apply to them, while providing a preliminary self-assessment. FR-OT engages in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area, CMM may be applicable to it.. As such, this CMM may be applicable to FR-OT. SEC: FR (OT) reports transits by vessels in BFCs, however, no reports were submitted to the Secretariat from the date of entry into force of CMM to 31 Dec 2025	FR-OT recognises an error when indicating that the CMM does not apply. The CMM is applicable et FR-OT has incidentally provided compliance status.	Non-Compliant	No Follow up
Japan	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	9. Following the entry into force of this CMM, CCPs shall provide to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of each ordinary meeting, an annual National Report of their fishing, research and management activities in accordance with the following: b. For all reports thereafter: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous calendar year; and c. In either case, the National Report shall take into account the guidelines prepared by the Scientific Committee for the preparation of such reports	Compliant	Compliant	In 2025 Japan submitted their Annual Report 1 day late (this is reflected in the annual report cover page). Note that the SC considered the Annual Report nonetheless.	Japan notes that the submission was 1 day late and accordingly revises the compliance status to "Non-Compliant."	Non-Compliant	No Follow up

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Final Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	6. CCPs shall report to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, the data collected under paragraphs 4 and 5 for the previous calendar year, in accordance with the format prescribed in the corresponding annexes.	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Data was provided 2 days late	Seychelles acknowledges that the required data submission was submitted two days after the deadline due to internal administrative delays. Measures are being implemented to strengthen internal coordination and clearly designate responsible officers for future submissions, ensuring timely compliance with reporting deadlines.	Non-Compliant	To improve internal processes to meet reporting obligations
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	7. CCPs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 May each year, annual catch summaries for all species/groups caught in the Agreement Area during the previous calendar year. The catch summaries shall include the following information: a. Calendar year (e.g. 2015), b. FAO statistical area (e.g. FAO87), c. Species/group name (common name and scientific name), d. Species/group code (FAO3-alpha code 19, EG ORY) (if available), e. Annual catch total - tonnes raised to 'live' weight	Compliant	Non-Compliant	Data was provided 2 days late	Seychelles notes the two-day delay in the submission of annual catch summaries. The reporting process has since been reviewed internally, and updated procedures are being established to improve coordination between relevant units and prevent a recurrence of delayed submissions.	Non-Compliant	To improve internal processes to meet reporting obligations
Seychelles	Table 3	CMM 02 (2025) & CMM 02 (2023) (Data Standards)	12. All CCPs shall implement national scientific observer programs to collect from activities undertaken by vessels flying their flag.	Crittically Non-Compliant	Non-Compliant		Seychelles acknowledges that observer coverage on industrial longline vessels remains a major compliance challenge. The country is prioritising the operational implementation of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) on vessels listed on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) as an alternative	Crittically Non-Compliant	EMS program development still ongoing. Timeline for implementation early 2027. Seychelles to share progress in next Scientific Committee. CC note that CMM 02 may need to be modified to include EMS.

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

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

CCP	Table	CMM	Obligation (include paragraph number, summary description)	Compliance Status for the 2024 Assessment Period	CCP Preliminary Self Assessment (2025 Assessment Period)	Secretariat Comments (including any Potential Compliance Issue)	Feedback from CCP	Final Compliance Status (2025 Assessment Period)	Follow up responsive or corrective action proposed to be undertaken
			d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.						
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	23. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Measure submitted relates to transshipment at sea. Obligation relates to transfers at sea.	Comoros Fisheries Code prohibits transshipments at sea.	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	28. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the [information contained in paragraph 28 of this CMM] to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Comoros has indicated that measures have not been updated since last assessment. Measures available to the Secretariat was deemed not sufficient to implmenet this obligation domestically. Comoros to submit measures(if any) to support self assessment of compliant. SEC: Submitted measure does not fully implement measure (submission of prior notification to the Port State)	Any vessel willing to transfer fishery resources in port shall notify the competent authority of the Union of Comoros at least 24 hours in advance. No fishing vessel listed in SIOFA list of authorised vessels were conducting transshipment of fishery resources to refrigerated cargo vessels or other fishing vessels in port in 2025	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.
Comoros	Table 10	CMM 10 (2023) (Monitoring)	30. The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.	Non-Compliant	Compliant	Comoros has indicated that measures have not been updated since last assessment. Measures available to the Secretariat was deemed not sufficient to implmenet this obligation domestically. Comoros to submit measures(if any) to support self assessment of compliant. SEC: Submitted measure partially implements measure (submission of transshipment declaration to the Port State not implemented)	Any vessel willing to transfer fishery resources in port shall notify the competent authority of the Union of Comoros at least 24 hours in advance. No fishing vessel listed in SIOFA list of authorised vessels were conducting transshipment of fishery resources to refrigerated cargo vessels or other fishing vessels in port in 2025	Critically Non-Compliant	Comoros to take necessary to update the domestic measures, and engage with the Secretariat to improve their implementation of this obligation.

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

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

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

CC-10-04 / MoP-13-04

Current SIOFA IUU Vessels List

Rev 1

SIOFA Secretariat

Meeting	Compliance Committee ✓ Meeting of the Parties ✓
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ✓ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ✓ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
Pursuant to paragraph 12 (b) of CMM 06 (2024), the Compliance Committee is required to consider the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List and recommend to the MoP which vessels, if any, should be removed from it. The Current SIOFA IUU Vessels List was updated intersessionally to include updates from the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (Intersessional Cross Listing Procedure through Circular N° 2025-22), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, & the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (Intersessional Cross Listing Procedure through Circular N° 2026-06). <i>It is to be noted that the Secretariat did not receive any request to remove any vessels on the current SIOFA IUU Vessels list for consideration by the Compliance Committee and, subsequently, by the Meeting of the Parties.</i> <i>Rev 1 of this document includes comments received from one CCP regarding changes in the IUU lists of other RFMOS, not reflected in the Current SIOFA IUU Vessels list. These updates were received after the circulation of the Current IUU Vessels list and the publication of this document.</i>	

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

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- That the CC **notes** that there has been no request to remove a vessel from the [Current SIOFA IUU Vessels List](#).
- That the CC **notes** the omitted changes in the Current SIOFA IUU vessels list with respect to vessels cross-listed from other RFMOs, and that the CC **recommends** that these changes be incorporated into the Current SIOFA IUU Vessels list.
- That the MoP **endorses** these recommendations and **agrees** that these changes be incorporated in the Current SIOFA IUU Vessels list at the conclusion of MoP13.

Proposed Modifications to the Current SIOFA IUU Vessels list

The following modifications are being proposed to the SIOFA's current IUU Vessels list to update the information related to a number of vessels currently cross-listed on it:

- Update to the flag of FREEDOM 7 from CAMEROON to UNKNOWN
- Delisting of the vessel FU HSIANG FA, as it was removed from the GFCM IUU Vessel List in 2024.
- HE LI 1 HAO: IOTC IUU vessel list (originating RFMO) provides additional details for this vessel, IMO N°: 8524492, and the previous name of the vessel, SINAR ABADI 69.
- OCEAN STAR N°2: ICCAT IUU vessel list (originating RFMO) provides additional details for this vessel, IMO N°: 8665193
- TA FU 1: ICCAT IUU vessel list (originating RFMO) provides additional details for this vessel, IMO N°: 9259070.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15bis. Each CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying their flag, through a specific entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting or by email, in accordance with the requirements of CMM 16 (2025) (Vessel Monitoring System).

15tris. In the event of a malfunctioning of the ALC on board a fishing vessel preventing the entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting required under paragraph 15bis, the flag CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to provide the notification to the Secretariat, within 24 hours of the vessel’s entry into or exit from the Agreement Area, via a manual report transmitted by email. The manual report shall include information on the activity of the vessel in the Agreement Area.

15quater. If a fishing vessel enters the Agreement Area with an observer on board, the flag CCP of the vessel shall require the vessel or its relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat by email, within 24 hours of the vessel’s entry into the Agreement Area, of the presence of an observer on board the vessel.”

In addition, the SIOFA VMS Working Group recommended that Annex I to CMM 10 (2023) be deleted. However, the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) agreed to maintain this annex to accommodate the new changes it has proposed.

Furthermore, the CC10 recommended that a footnote be added to Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System, and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs on the column of the type of message Data Element reading “ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with paragraph 15 bis. of CMM 10 (2023)”. The data formats would be replaced by those required under CMM 16 (2025).

The proposed changes are set out in Annex 1 to this document, which contains the amendments to paragraph 15 of CMM 10 (2023) on Monitoring, the updates to Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and the revisions to Annex 1 to the SIOFA VMS SSPs.

More detailed information about the SIOFA VMS Working Group discussions on this topic is available on the meeting pages of the 8th,⁵ 9th,⁶ and 10th⁷ Meetings of the SIOFA VMS Working Group.

⁵ <https://siofa.org/meetings/vmswg08>

⁶ <https://siofa.org/meetings/VMSWG09>

⁷ <https://siofa.org/meetings/cc/10th-meeting-siofa-vms-working-group-vmswg10>

Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 Of CMM 16 (2025) On Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs

At its 10th Meeting, the SIOFA VMS Working Group noted that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) number is not currently included in *Table 1: NAF message data elements* of Annex 2 to CMM 16 (2025). This is notwithstanding that CMM 16 (2025) recognises the IMO number as a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) for vessels transmitting VMS position reports via their FMC pursuant to paragraph 6(a) of the CMM. A similar omission is also observed in the Standards, Specifications, and Procedures for the SIOFA VMS (SSPs). As such the SIOFA VMS Working Group tasked the Secretariat to draft a discussion paper for it to consider prior to the 10th Meeting of the Compliance Committee and the 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA, which was reviewed by the SIOFA VMS Working Group via correspondence.

Further to that consultation via correspondence, the SIOFA VMS Working Group recommended a number of amendments to Table 1 of Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 of the SSPs and sought to clarify the applicability of the use of IMO Number in the NAF Messages Data Elements. The outcomes of those discussions are set out in *Discussion Paper on Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025), on Vessel Monitoring System, and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs*, available for reference on the SIOFA Website.⁸

[Annex 1](#) to this paper includes the proposed Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.

As part of the consultation process for this paper, one CCP proposed deleting the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 to CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 to the SSPs. The proposed deletion has not been reflected in the amendments, as they are inconsistent with the recommendations and conclusions formulated by the SIOFA VMS Working Group in paper [VMSWG-09-01](#) on the use of the VMS for the automation of entry and exit reporting, which is also discussed in the previous section of this paper. Noting this, the SIOFA VMS WG further recommends that the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties consider the deletion proposed by one CCP of the entry ('ENT') and exit ('EXI') data reporting elements from NAF messages in Table 1 of Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and Annex 1 of the SSPs.

⁸ <https://siofa.org/media/2825>.

~~Annex 1 Possible Amendments to the NAF Messages Data Elements in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) on Vessel Monitoring System and Annex 1 of the SIOFA VMS SSPs.~~

~~This Annex presents the proposed amendments to the NAF message data elements in CMM 16 (2025) and the SSPs, as agreed by the SIOFA VMS Working Group. The proposed changes aim to clarify the inclusion and designation of key data elements, ensuring consistency across all measures and policy documents, and effectively addressing the gap identified above.~~

~~The amended table below shall replace Table 1 in Annex 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and the table in Annex 1 of the SSPs, reflecting the changes agreed by the SIOFA VMS WG.~~

~~In addition, minor changes are proposed to the introductory text that accompanies these tables. Furthermore, the footnote (*) in Annex 1 of the SSPs would become redundant and should therefore be removed.~~

~~CMM 16 (2025)~~

~~Annex 2-~~

~~Data formats for transmission of VMS position reports~~

~~A. North Atlantic Format (NAF)-~~

~~1. ——— VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be transmitted using one of the following application layers (secured connection):-~~

~~i. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS);-~~

~~ii. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS);-~~

~~iii. Email.-~~

~~2. ——— VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory data elements in Table 1.-~~

~~Table 1: NAF message data elements~~

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMG is submitting the report.	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	0-999999
IMO Number	IM	IMO ship identification number ^{M3}	IMO ship identification number (
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
	TM		POS=position report, MAN=manual report,
Type of Message		Letter code of the type of message	ENT=entry report,
			EXT=exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel ⁴	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LF	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	Knots*10
Vessel Course	GO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	No Data

³ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

~~⁴Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

~~***~~

~~Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS~~

~~Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)~~

~~Data Elements of NAF Messages~~

~~VMS position reports sent in All NAF Messages format sent to the SIOFA VMS shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory information required in data elements in the following table: paragraph 1.f) of CMM 16 (2025). The general structure and data elements are as below~~

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMG is submitting the report.	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	0-999999
IMO Number	IM	IMO ship identification number	IMO ship identification number
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
	TM		POS=position report, MAN=manual report;
Type of Message		Letter code of the type of message	ENT=entry report; EXT=exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LF	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	Knots*10
Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	No Data

*Submission of IR is optional

³<https://www.naf-format.org/index.htm>

~~⁴Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

~~⁵Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

Structure of the position report

Each data transmission shall be structured as follows:

- ~~double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message,~~
- ~~a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element,~~
- ~~a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data,~~
- ~~pairs of data are separated by space,~~
- ~~the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.~~

Annex 1: Proposed changes to relevant CMMs to incorporate the Potential Amendments

CMM 10(2023)¹

Conservation and Management Measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (Monitoring)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scope

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

Information on fishing activities

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

¹ CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) supersedes CMM 2018/10 (Monitoring). Obsolete references have been updated by 2025 technical edits.

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

- b. data referred to in sub-paragraph a. are submitted in accordance with CMM 02(2025) and maintained in accordance with CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality); and
 - c. the quantities of catch recorded on vessels flying its flag correspond to the quantities of catch kept on board.
4. Each CCP shall cooperate with any reasonable request from other CCPs for any information contained in the fishing logbooks from the preceding 12 months for the purposes of control.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entry- Exit reports

15. Each CCP shall monitor the entry to and exit from the Agreement Area of fishing vessels flying its

flag, and their activities while in the Agreement Area.

15bis. Each CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying their flag, through a specific entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting or by email, in accordance with the requirements of CMM 16 (2025) (Vessel Monitoring System), or by email, in the format provided in Annex 1.

15tris. In the event of a malfunctioning of the ALC on board a fishing vessel preventing the entry and exit notification by means of VMS reporting required under paragraph 15bis, the flag CCP shall require its fishing vessels or relevant authorities to provide the notification to the Secretariat, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into or exit from the Agreement Area, via a manual report transmitted by email. The manual report shall include information on the activity of the vessel in the Agreement Area.

~~15. 15quater. If a fishing vessel enters the Agreement Area with an observer on board, the flag CCP of the vessel shall require the vessel or its relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat by email, within 24 hours of the vessel's entry into the Agreement Area, of the presence of an observer on board the vessel. CCPs shall require their vessels or relevant authorities to notify the Secretariat, by email or other means of communication, within 24 hours, in the format provided in Annex I, of each entry to or exit from the Agreement Area of vessels authorised to fish for species managed by SIOFA flying its flag, in accordance with CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).~~

Monitoring of at sea transshipments and transfers

16. For the purpose of this CMM, transshipment means the unloading of all or any fishery resources, including fishery products, on board a fishing vessel onto another vessel, without the fish being recorded as landed, as defined in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
17. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources if they have prior authorization from their competent authority.
18. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag only undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources, with other vessels included on the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels.
19. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments at sea of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.
20. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transshipment operation, that:
 - a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 7 days in advance of a 14-day period during which the at sea transshipment is scheduled to occur.
 - b. the vessel notifies its competent authority 24 hours in advance of the estimated time during which the at sea transshipment will occur.
 - c. the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b include the relevant information available regarding the at sea transshipment in accordance with Transshipment Notification Annex II.
 - d. its competent authority transmits the notifications referred to in sub-paragraphs a. and b. to the Secretariat within 7 days.
 - e. an impartial and qualified observer is deployed on board every receiving vessel to monitor the transshipment.
Electronic monitoring can be implemented as an alternative or to complement the

deployment of human observers. CCPs that elect to use the electronic monitoring shall ensure that all relevant aspects are monitored effectively.

- f. the observer assigned to their vessel collect and record the information of each transshipment operation as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet in Annex III.
- g. the master of the vessel provides the observer on board full access to all operational areas of the vessel necessary to complete their duties, including the fish holds, production areas, crew, nets or other gear, equipment, and any documents related with the catch retained onboard.
- h. the observer referred to sub-paragraphs e and f. provides a copy of the information collected as indicated in the Transshipment Logsheet to the competent authority of the observed vessel.
- i. its competent authority submits the observer data referred to in sub-paragraph f. to the Secretariat, no later than 15 days from debarkation of the observer.
- j. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, using the Transshipment Declaration in Annex IV, within 24 hours following the transshipment.
- k. its competent authority transmits the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. to the Secretariat within 30 days.
- l. where its competent authority authorizes the vessel operator to transmit the Transshipment Declaration referred to in sub-paragraph j. directly to the Secretariat, the vessel operator directs any requests for clarifications from the Secretariat to its competent authority.

21. Each CCP shall ensure, for each vessel flying its flag undertaking an at sea transfer operation of fuel, crew, gear or any other supplies, either as an unloading or receiving vessel, where one or both vessels has been involved or intends to undertake fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area during that trip, that:
 - a. the vessel notifies its competent authority at least 24 hours in advance of the planned transfer.
 - b. the notifications include the relevant information available regarding the transfer in accordance with Transfer Notification Annex V.
 - c. the competent authority transmits the notification to the Secretariat without delay.
 - d. the vessel notifies all of the operational details to its competent authority, as specified in Transfer Declaration Annex VI, within 24 hours following the transfer.
22. The Secretariat shall make all information provided under paragraphs 20 and 21 available on the secure section of the SIOFA website as soon as possible.
23. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in a transshipment or transfer at sea shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 20 and 21 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event that an observer reports discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs, including coordination with the Port State where the receiving vessel is to unload, if it considers that an inspection of the unload is necessary.
24. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag that receives fishery resources at sea from more than one unloading vessel shall ensure that such receiving vessel:

- a. stores the fishery resources and related documentation from each unloading vessel separately, allowing to distinguish from which unloading vessel each part of the fishery resources on board comes, including through the use of canvas or nets to separate fishery resources on board and/or appropriate labelling for boxes.
 - b. maintains an up-to-date stowage plan and other documents showing the location and quantities of species received from each unloading vessel and retains these on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.
 - c. makes available the information referred to in sub-paragraph b. to its competent authority and to the relevant port State when required.
25. Nothing in this measure shall prevent vessels from undertaking transshipments or transfers at sea in cases of force majeure or distress, in which case those vessels shall report their transshipment or transfer activities to their competent authorities and the Secretariat, as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant procedures and templates established in paragraphs 20 and 21, after the transshipment or transfer has been completed, including information on the circumstances giving rise to the force majeure or distress.

Monitoring of transshipments in ports

26. Each CCP shall ensure that a vessel flying its flag that is carrying fishery resources shall only transship in a port if it has prior authorisation from its competent authority and the port State.
27. Each CCP shall ensure that vessels flying its flag do not undertake transshipments in port of fishery resources with vessels included in the IUU vessel lists established by CCAMLR or any regional fisheries management organization.
28. For each transshipment of fishery resources in port, the competent authority of the CCP of the unloading vessel shall notify, at least 24 hours in advance, the following information to the competent authority of the port State and to the competent authority of the receiving vessel:
- a. the date, time and port of transshipment;
 - b. the name and flag of the unloading transshipping vessel;
 - c. the name and flag of the receiving vessel;
 - d. the weight of fishery resources (Kg) by species (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) to be transshipped.-
29. Where applicable, the competent authority of a CCP of a receiving vessel shall inform the competent authority of the port State of the quantities of fishery resources on board the vessel 24 hours before the transshipment and again 24 hours after the transshipment.
30. The CCP of the unloading vessel shall require that the vessel submits a Transshipment Declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV to its competent authority, and that of the port State within 24 hours of the transshipment, and also provides a copy to the receiving vessel.
31. Where applicable, the competent authority of the CCP of a receiving vessel shall, 48 hours before a landing of the transshipped fishery resources, submit a copy of the received Transshipment Declaration to the competent authority of the port State where the landing takes place.
32. Each CCP with a vessel flying its flag involved in the transshipment in port shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received in accordance with paragraphs 28 to 31 and take appropriate follow-up action in the event of discrepancies in the data reported by the masters of the unloading or receiving vessels or in the event of possible non-compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Reporting of transshipments and at sea transfers

33. As part of its CCP Compliance Report under paragraph 12 of CMM 11(2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme), each CCP shall provide annually the following information, as applicable, to the Secretariat for consideration by the Compliance Committee in relation to each transshipment and at sea transfer by vessels flying its flag that took place during the previous calendar year in accordance with paragraphs 16 to 32:
 - a. date, time and location of transshipment or transfer in accordance with the specifications in CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards);
 - b. names of vessels, flags and registration number/call sign of the transshipping vessel or transferring vessels;
 - c. tonnage of any fishery resources, including species/group name (FAO 3-alpha species code/group code/scientific name) transshipped;
 - d. type and description of transfers; and
 - e. any other relevant information.
34. The Secretariat shall report annually on the implementation of this CMM. As regards transshipments and at sea transfers, the report shall include information, aggregated at CCP level, about the number of events, locations, quantities of fishery resources (by species, product form and catch area) transshipped and transferred, which shall be made publicly available on the SIOFA website.
35. This CMM shall enter into force on 1 January 2024.

ANNEX I

REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSEL ENTRY AND EXIT NOTIFICATIONS BY EMAIL

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

ANNEX II

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA PRIOR NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

ANNEX III

SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA LOGSHEET

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

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

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

ANNEX IV **SIOFA TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA/ IN PORT DECLARATION**

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

[illegible]**FISHERY RESSOURCES REMAINING ON BOARD AFTER TRANSSHIPMENT**[illegible]

ANNEX V

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

ANNEX VI

SIOFA TRANSFER AT SEA DECLARATION

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

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

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

CMM 16(2025)¹**Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System (Vessel Monitoring System)****The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:**

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

MINDFUL of Article 18(3) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) which outlines the duties of the flag State, including to take measures to ensure recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non-target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data, and to ensure the monitoring, control and surveillance of vessels, their fishing operations and related activities by, inter alia, the development and implementation of vessel monitoring systems;

FURTHER MINDFUL of the importance of international cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in particular through the exchange of information and effective monitoring, control and surveillance;

RECALLING paragraph 14 of the SIOFA Conservation and management measure for the Monitoring of Fisheries in the Agreement Area (CMM 10(2023)) to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for the establishment of a SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System;

MINDFUL of the key principles upon which the vessel monitoring system should be based, including the confidentiality and security of information handled by the system, and its efficiency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility;

***ADOPTS* the following Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement:**

Definitions

1. The following definitions shall apply to this CMM:
 - a) "Automatic location communicator" (ALC) means a satellite-based on-board device that is capable of continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention of the vessel, transmitting VMS position reports;
 - b) "Fisheries monitoring centre" (FMC) means the authority or agency of a Flag CCP responsible for managing the VMS for its flagged fishing vessels;
 - c) "Vessel Monitoring System" (VMS) means a satellite-based monitoring system which, at regular intervals, provides VMS position reports;
 - d) "SIOFA VMS" means the SIOFA Vessel Monitoring System established under this CMM;
 - e) "Manual reporting" means the transmission via alternative means of the position reporting of a fishing vessel when an ALC fails to transmit VMS position reports;
 - f) VMS position reports shall include at least the following data, which shall be considered confidential (i.e. non-public domain data):

- i. the fishing vessel's unique vessel identifier²;
- ii. the current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel;
- iii. the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the position of the vessel;
- iv. the vessel's speed; and
- v. the vessel's course.

Objective

- 2. The main objective of the SIOFA VMS is to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA CMMs.

Application

- 3. The SIOFA VMS shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party or participating fishing entity (CCP) that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area, as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement.

Nature and specifications of the SIOFA VMS

- 4. The SIOFA VMS shall be administered by the SIOFA Secretariat under the guidance of the Meeting of the Parties.
- 5. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels and operating in the Agreement Area are fitted with an operational ALC that complies with the minimum standards for ALCs described in Annex 1.
- 6. Each CCP shall ensure that all fishing vessels flying their flag referred to in paragraph 3 report VMS position reports automatically while they are operating in the Agreement Area either:
 - a) to the SIOFA VMS via their FMC; or
 - b) simultaneously to both the SIOFA VMS and their FMC.
- 7. CCPs that choose to report under option (a) of paragraph 6 shall automatically forward VMS position reports to the SIOFA VMS without delay but not later than one hour after receipt.
- 8. CCPs shall ensure that VMS position reports are reported automatically³ by each of their vessels while operating in the Agreement Area:
 - a) at least once every hour as provided for in paragraph 15 of CMM 15(2025) (Management of Demersal Stocks), and;

² The unique vessel identifier shall be the ALC Unique Identifier or, for vessels reporting pursuant to paragraph 6 a) of this Measure, the vessel's International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) or International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number.

³ In the event that the connection between the ALC and the satellite is temporarily unavailable, the data referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this Measure shall still be collected but shall instead be transmitted as soon as the satellite connection becomes available again.

- b) at least once every two hours in other circumstances.
9. VMS position reports, sent pursuant to paragraph 6. a. shall be transmitted to the SIOFA VMS using one of the data formats in Annex 2.
 10. Each CCP shall ensure that their FMC can automatically receive and, for those CCPs whose vessels transmit VMS position reports in accordance with paragraph 6 a), transmit VMS position reports from ALCs. Each CCP shall provide backup and recovery procedures in case of system failures.
 11. Each CCP shall provide the Secretariat with the name, address, email, and telephone number(s) of its FMC and shall designate a VMS Point of Contact for the purposes of any communication regarding the SIOFA VMS ("VMS Point of Contact"). Each CCP shall notify the Secretariat of any changes to these details within 30 days after such changes take effect and the Secretariat shall promptly notify this information to the other CCPs and make it available on the non-public area of the SIOFA website.
 12. Each CCP shall ensure that in vessels flying their flag:
 - a) the ALC is not tampered with in any way;
 - b) VMS position reports are not altered in any way;
 - c) the antenna or antennae are connected to the ALC and not obstructed in any way;
 - d) the power supply of the ALC is not interrupted in any way;
 - e) the ALC is not removed from the vessel except for the purpose set out in paragraph 15; and
 - f) the satellite navigation decoder and transmitter are fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Procedure for manual reporting

13. In the event of non-reception of four consecutive, expected programmed VMS position reports by the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat shall notify the CCP whose flag the vessel is flying. The Flag CCP shall immediately notify the vessel Master and direct the Master to provide it with manual reports every four hours of the vessel's position in accordance with the reporting frequency under paragraph 8. The Flag CCP shall ensure that this manual reporting is transmitted to the Secretariat, either by the flag CCP or by the fishing vessel, with a clear distinction between reports that are manual and those that are automatic.
14. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the manual reports include at least the information referred to in paragraph 1(f)(i), (ii) and (iii). If automatic reporting to the SIOFA VMS has not been re-established within 60 days of the commencement of manual reporting, the Flag CCP shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port in order to undertake repairs or replacement.
15. Following a technical failure or non-functioning of the ALC, the Flag CCP shall ensure that the fishing vessel only leaves port once the ALC fitted on board is fully functioning to the satisfaction of the competent authorities of the Flag CCP. By derogation, the Flag

CCP may authorise the fishing vessel to leave port with a non-functioning satellite-tracking device for its repair or replacement.

16. The Flag CCP shall ensure that the vessel recommences fishing in the Agreement Area only when the ALC has been confirmed as operational by its FMC. Four consecutive, programmed VMS position reports must have been received by the FMC to confirm that the ALC is fully operational.
17. Notwithstanding paragraphs 13 to 16, where the Flag CCP confirms that the ALC on board the vessel is functioning normally, but the SIOFA VMS is not receiving the vessel's VMS position reports, the Secretariat shall immediately take steps to resolve any technical or other issue that is preventing the SIOFA VMS from receiving the VMS position reports. If the VMS position reports cannot be retrieved by the SIOFA VMS after the issue has been resolved, the Flag CCP shall send these VMS position reports to the Secretariat via manual reporting and provide the Secretariat with any assistance as may be necessary.

Measures to prevent tampering with ALCs

18. Each CCP shall ensure that the ALCs fitted on board vessels flying their flag are tamper resistant, that is, are of a type of and configuration that prevent the input or output of false positions, and that they are not capable of being over-ridden, whether manually, electronically or otherwise, in accordance with the minimum standards for ALCs set out in Annex 1.
19. Each CCP shall prohibit vessels flying their flag to destroy, damage, switch off, render inoperative or otherwise interfere with the ALC.
20. In the event that a CCP or the Secretariat obtains information that indicates an ALC on board a fishing vessel operating in the Agreement Area does not meet the requirements of Annex 1 or there is evidence that the ALC has been tampered with, it shall immediately notify the Secretariat, and the fishing vessel's Flag CCP which shall:
 - a) investigate the suspected breach of this measure as soon as possible; and
 - b) depending on the outcome of the investigation, if necessary suspend the vessel from fishing until an ALC that meets the specifications outlined in Annex 1 is operational on board the vessel; and
 - c) communicate actions taken to the Meeting of the Parties, including the outcome of the investigation within 30 days of its completion.
21. Nothing in this measure shall prevent a CCP from applying additional or more stringent measures to prevent tampering of ALCs on board vessels flying its flag.

Use and release of VMS position reports

22. All requests for access to VMS position reports must be made to the Secretariat by a VMS Point of Contact by electronic means using the appropriate template⁴ at least 5 working

⁴ The template shall be developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the Compliance Committee and the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

days in advance of the intended use, except for the purposes of paragraph 23 c), and in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 24 to 29.

23. Upon request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the exclusive purposes of:

- a) planning for active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea within 72 hours of the expected start of the operations in the Agreement Area;
- b) active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area;
- c) supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) subject to the terms of an Arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC. Such Arrangement shall be reported to the Meeting of the Parties.

24. For the purpose of implementing paragraph 23 a) and b):

- a) Boarding and inspection at sea shall be undertaken in accordance with CMM 14(2021) (High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures), including its paragraph 7;
- b) each CCP shall only make available VMS position reports relevant to the planned or active surveillance operations and/or boarding and inspection at sea in the Agreement Area to the requesting CCP's inspectors and any other government officials for whom it is deemed necessary to access the reports;
- c) CCPs shall ensure that such inspectors and government officials keep the VMS position reports confidential and only use the reports for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b);
- d) CCPs shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) until 72 hours after the time that the active operation has concluded. Except in the circumstances outlined in paragraph 24 e), CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports immediately after the 72 hours' period;
- e) CCPs' inspectors and government officials authorities shall be allowed to retain VMS position reports provided by the Secretariat for the purposes described in paragraph 23 a) and b) for longer than the periods specified in paragraph 24 d) only if it is part of an investigation, judicial or administrative proceeding of an alleged violation of the provisions of the Agreement, any CMMs or decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. CCPs shall inform the Secretariat of the purposes and expected timing of the additional period of retention before the expiration of the initial period and the Secretariat shall promptly notify the concerned Flag CCP of the additional period. CCPs shall submit a written confirmation to the Secretariat of the deletion of the VMS position reports as soon as the purposes have been achieved or immediately after the additional period of retention has expired, whichever is earlier.

25. For the purpose of paragraph 23 a), CCPs requesting VMS position reports shall provide the Secretariat the geographic area of the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In this case, the Secretariat shall provide the most recent available VMS position reports for the notified geographic area at a specified point in time no more than 72 hours prior to the commencement of each surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. In the event that the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity does not proceed, the CCP shall notify the Secretariat, delete the VMS position reports, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing, without delay. Regardless of whether the planned surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity were conducted or not, the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the VMS position report provision, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
26. For the purpose of paragraph 23 b), the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports from the previous 10 days, for vessels detected during the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity by a CCP, and VMS position reports for all vessels within 300 n miles of the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity location. The Secretariat shall provide regular updates of VMS position reports to the CCP for the duration of the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. CCPs conducting the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity shall provide the Secretariat and the VMS Point of Contact of the Flag CCP with a report including the name of the vessel or aircraft on active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity. This information shall be made available without undue delay after the surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activities are complete. The Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP that the VMS position reports were provided to the CCP no later than 7 days after the active surveillance and/or boarding and inspection activity has ended, and, if applicable, that they have received confirmation that the reports have been deleted.
27. For the purpose of paragraph 23 c), upon the request of a CCP, the Secretariat shall provide VMS position reports without the permission of the Flag CCP for the purposes of supporting search and rescue activities undertaken by a competent MRCC subject to the arrangement between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC, including in relation to the provision of VMS position reports to the requesting CCP, and the protection and deletion of those reports.
28. Other than the purposes set out in paragraph 23, the Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to a requesting CCP or to the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups where the VMS position reports relate to vessels flagged to CCPs that have provided prior written consent through their VMS Point of Contact for the reports to be shared. Such VMS position reports shall be deleted as soon as they have served their intended purpose, and the deletion of the reports shall be confirmed to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
29. CCPs may request VMS position reports for their own flagged vessels from the Secretariat.

Closed areas and interim protected areas

30. If VMS position reports received by the Secretariat indicate the presence of a fishing vessel in a closed area, or of a fishing vessel excluding those using line and trap methods in an interim protected area, as defined in CMM 18(2025) (Benthic Fishery Closures), the Secretariat shall notify the Flag CCP. The Flag CCP shall investigate the matter and provide an explanation within 5 working days to the Secretariat. The explanation shall be provided by the Secretariat to the Compliance Committee for consideration at its next annual meeting.

Data security and confidentiality

31. All CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, and any SIOFA VMS service provider shall ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data in their respective electronic data processing facilities in accordance with the requirements of CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards), CMM 03(2025) (Data Confidentiality) and Annex 3, in particular where the processing involves transmission over a network, including by using secure internet protocols to ensure secure communications and taking all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing.

Entry into operation

32. The SIOFA VMS shall enter into operation at a date to be determined by the Meeting of the Parties.
33. Upon entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, paragraphs 5 to 14 of CMM 10(2023) (Monitoring) shall be superseded and replaced by this CMM.

Review

34. Following the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, the Secretariat shall report annually to the Meeting of the Parties on the implementation of, and compliance with, this CMM, including on the performance of the SIOFA VMS service provider.
35. After two years of implementation of the SIOFA VMS, the Meeting of the Parties shall conduct a review of this CMM and consider improving it as appropriate.

Annex 1***Minimum standards for Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) used in the SIOFA VMS***

1. The Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) shall continuously, automatically and independently of any intervention by the fishing vessel, communicate VMS position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) of this CMM.
2. The position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.
3. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be capable of transmitting the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f) recorded at least every fifteen minutes.
4. ALCs fitted to fishing vessels must be tamper-proof so as to preserve the security and integrity of the position reports referred to in paragraph 1(f).
5. Storage of information within the ALC must be safe, secure and integrated within a single unit under normal operating conditions.
6. It must not be reasonably possible for unauthorised persons to alter any of the VMS position reports stored in the ALC, including the frequency of position reporting to the FMC.
7. Any features built into the ALC or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC that could potentially compromise the operation of the VMS.
8. ALCs shall be installed on fishing vessels in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and applicable standards.
9. Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 metres ($2 \times \text{Distance Root Mean Squared}$; 2DRMS) i.e., 99 per cent of the positions must be within this range.
10. The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.

Annex 2
Data formats for transmission of VMS position reports

A. North Atlantic Format (NAF)

1. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be transmitted using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - (i) Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS);
 - (ii) File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS);
 - (iii) Email.
2. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall contain, at minimum, the [mandatory](#) data elements in Table 1.

Table 1: NAF message data elements

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Mandatory / Optional	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	M	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	M	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	M	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	M	0-999999
IMO Number	IM	IMO ship identification number	M ⁵	IMO ship identification number
Internal Reference Number*	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	O	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message ⁶	TM	Letter code of the type of message	M	POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	M ⁷	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	M	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	M	Knots * 10

⁵ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

⁶ ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with [paragraph 15bis. of CMM 10 \(2023\)](#)

⁷ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	M	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel	M	3-Alpha code
Date	DA	Date of reported event	M	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	M	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report		No Data

3. VMS position reports sent in NAF format shall be structured as follows:

- (i) double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message;
- (ii) a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element;
- (iii) a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data;
- (iv) pairs of data are separated by a space;
- (v) the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

B. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

1. VMS position reports sent in UN/FLUX format shall contain, at minimum, the mandatory data elements in Table 2.

Table 2: UN/FLUX data elements

Data Element	Mandatory/ optional	Comments
Addressee	M	Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope
From	M	Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code
Unique message identifier	M	UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF
Date and time of transmission	M	Date and time when the message was created in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁸
Flag State	M	Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code
Type of message	M	Message detail – Type of message The following codes are to be used: ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing zone) EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone MANUAL: position transmitted manually

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC).

Radio call sign	M	Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)
CCP internal reference number	O	Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	O	Vessel detail – IMO number
External registration number	O	Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel
Latitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator; Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.
Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁹

⁹ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; Ml=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

Annex 3
Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

1. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall limit access of Secretariat staff to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
2. The SIOFA VMS shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to.
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat.
 - c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches.
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system.
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) is/are allowed to access it.
3. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
4. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the email address specified by the requesting entity at the time the data is requested.
5. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the SIOFA VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) for the SIOFA VMS

SIOFA | APSOI

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



Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

13 Rue de Marseille

97420 Le Port

La Réunion

secretariat@siofa.org

<http://www.siofa.org>

Contents

Background	2
1. Purpose	3
2. Application	3
3. General Provisions	3
4. Methods to ensure ALCs comply with SIOFA Standards	4
5. Rules for Polling and Programming for Vessels Reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with Paragraph 6 b).	45
6. Responsibilities of the Secretariat.....	6
7. Data format for data transmission	7
8. Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions	8
Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)	10
Annex 2: Description of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange, (UN/FLUX)	12

Background

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are satellite-based monitoring systems that enable flag States and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to track and monitor the activities of fishing vessels in a defined geographical area through the transmission of position data by fishing vessels at regular intervals. They are a cornerstone of monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) programmes at national and international levels and a key instrument in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Article 6(1)(h) of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) requires SIOFA to develop rules and procedures for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities to ensure compliance with SIOFA conservation and management measures (CMM), including a system of verification incorporating vessel monitoring and observation of vessels operating in the SIOFA Area. [CMM 10 \(2025\) \(Monitoring\)](#) also requires SIOFA to develop specifications and propose rules and procedures for establishing a SIOFA VMS. While flag Contracting Parties, Participating Fishing Entities and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (collectively: CCPs) are required to track and monitor their vessels' activities using VMS, SIOFA does not currently operate a VMS system. In this respect, it is behind other RFMOs that have installed and operate a VMS.

To close this gap, the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the SIOFA (MoP10) adopted [CMM 16 \(2025\) \(Vessel Monitoring System\)](#) setting out the framework of the SIOFA VMS covering all critical aspects, including the scope of application, definitions, nature and specifications of the VMS, prevention of tampering and actions in case of suspected breach, use and release of VMS data requiring / not requiring the consent of CCPs, closed and interim protected areas, as well as data security and confidentiality. However, this framework needs to be further completed through the development of Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 16 (2025) prior to the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS.

Following intersessional work by the VMS-WG, the 11th Meeting of the Parties adopted these SSPs, and the 12th Meeting of the Parties revised them.

The SSPs assume that Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) will be treated similarly as CPs and PFEs, recalling that CNCs do not currently contribute to the budget, which may be impacted by the implementation of the SIOFA VMS.

For the purpose of this document, all terms used shall have the same meaning as those in CMM 16 (2025) unless otherwise specified.

1. Purpose

1. The purpose of these Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) is to complement measures established under CMM 16 (2025) so as to achieve the objectives of the CMM, which are to monitor in an automatic, continuous and cost-effective manner the movements and activity of fishing vessels operating in the Agreement Area to ensure compliance with SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

2. Application

2. These SSPs shall apply to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, Participating Fishing Entity or Cooperating non-Contracting Party (collectively CCPs), that are entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) and operating within the Agreement Area (Area), as defined in Article 3 of the Agreement.
3. These SSPs do not prejudice the right of CCPs to apply additional or more stringent measures to vessels flying their flag.

3. General Provisions

4. For the purposes of these SSPs, the term “VMS data” shall refer to all data associated with the SIOFA VMS, including VMS position reports and Automatic location communicator (ALC) details.
5. CCPs shall:
 - a. For vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV) prior to the entry into force of CMM 16 (2025), provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 for each vessel registered on the SIOFA RAV by 31 December 2025 at the latest.
 - b. For vessels to be entered onto the SIOFA RAV after the entry into operation of the SIOFA VMS, provide ALC details specified in paragraph 6 at the time of the submission of information required by [CMM 07 \(2025\) \(Vessel Authorization\)](#).¹
6. CCPs shall provide the following ALC details:
 - a. Model and Brand
 - b. ALC Unique Identifier
 - c. Service Provider (Inmarsat/Iridium/ARGOS etc.)
7. For the purposes of CMM 16 (2025), the term Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) shall have the following meaning:
 - a) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 a), of CMM 16 (2025) the UVI shall be the International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number or the ALC Unique Identifier.
 - b) For CCPs transmitting VMS position reports pursuant to paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2025) the UVI shall be the ALC Unique Identifier.

¹ Conservation and Management Measure for Vessel Authorisation and Notification to Fish.

4. Methods to ensure ALCs comply with SIOFA Standards

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 12 of CMM 16 (2025) sets out the general standards by which ALCs are expected to be installed and operated. Paragraphs 18 and 19 expand on the requirements to have tamper-proof ALCs while also prohibiting the tampering of ALCs. The minimum standards for ALCs are further described in Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2025).

This section of the SSPs provides for the possibility of the MoP adopting a list of approved ALCs and clarifies that it is the responsibility of flag CCPs to ensure that ALCs installed on their vessels comply with SIOFA specifications and standards.

8. The MoP may adopt a list of approved ALCs to be used by vessels entered onto the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV), taking into account lists approved by existing regional and subregional VMS programs and by CCPs.
9. CCPs shall be responsible for ensuring that the ALCs on board vessels flying their flag and entered onto the SIOFA RAV meet the specifications and standards set out in paragraph 12 and Annex 1 of CMM 16 (2025). To this end, CCPs are encouraged to conduct periodic audits of a representative sample of ALCs. Any findings shall be reported as part of CCPs' annual compliance assessment reporting under paragraph 12 of CMM 11 (2020) (Compliance Monitoring Scheme).

5. Rules for Polling and Programming for Vessels Reporting to the Secretariat in accordance with Paragraph 6 b)

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 b) of CMM 16 (2025) allows for simultaneously reporting VMS position reports automatically to the Secretariat. In this regard, there may be a need to interact with the ALCs to program its automatic reporting and to change its reporting frequency based on location (programming) and also to "query" an unscheduled position report (polling). It should be noted that while CMM 16 (2025) does not provide for polling of ALCs, it may be required during diagnosis when the good reception of position reports cannot be achieved. Other cases may be to stop the reporting temporarily or indefinitely based on scenarios, such as the deletion of the vessels from the SIOFA RAV, repairs, flagging and decommissioning of fishing vessels.

As such, these SSPs suggest procedures for the same.

10. CCPs shall ensure that the ALCs on board of vessels flying their flag are configured to comply with paragraph 8 of CMM 16 (2025) and, where applicable, shall send programming commands.

11. CCPs which opt for simultaneous reporting under paragraph 6. b) of CMM 16 (2025) shall ensure that their ALC service provider is capable of providing simultaneous reporting to multiple destinations (receivers) and shall bear the cost for reporting to their FMC and to the Secretariat as well as for programming command sending. The Secretariat (SIOFA VMS) shall receive the "simultaneously reporting" in accordance with the protocol provided by the CCP's service provider.

6. Responsibilities of the Secretariat

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs set out the responsibilities of the Secretariat in administering the SIOFA VMS.

12. The Secretariat shall:

- a. ensure that data, once received by the SIOFA VMS, are not altered, manipulated, copied or interfered with in any way, and that the data is only used in accordance with CMM 03 (2025), and with any such additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties for the purposes of the SIOFA VMS.
- b. provide a stable, reliable, fully maintained and supported SIOFA VMS that is in compliance with CMM 03 (2025), and any additional data security and confidentiality rules adopted by the Meeting of Parties.
- c. utilise the SIOFA VMS in a manner consistent with the Agreement, CMMs and these SSPs.
- d. compile and report annually to the MoP, through the Compliance Committee, an overview of potential issues identified by vessel and flag with regard to their compliance with CMM 2016 (2025) and these SSPs.
- e. monitor and report annually to the Compliance Committee on the implementation and performance of the SIOFA VMS and its application and, as necessary, make recommendations for improvements or modifications to the system and these SSPs established to support it.

7. Data format for data transmission

Explanatory Notes

Paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2025) allows CCPs to choose to report VMS positions automatically to the Secretariat via their FMC. However, these provisions do not provide for the data format and standards that will allow these transfers to take place.

There are at least two globally accepted data formats for data exchange of fisheries information. These are the North Atlantic Format (NAF) and the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX). NAF is recognised as an older format with some limitations, therefore there are ongoing efforts to improve NAF or develop new standards for the exchange of fisheries information altogether.

UN/FLUX is one such proposed standard that has already gained recognition by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), with more states and regional organisations adopting its use for VMS data exchange, among others. The most significant advantage of UN/FLUX over NAF is its ability to cater to other data types, such as inspection reports, catch and effort reporting, etc. However, the uptake of UN/FLUX is still relatively low, and implementation may present challenges to the Secretariat and CCPs.

Noting the above, the SSPs recognise the two data formats and provide standards to enable CCPs to exchange data using those formats.

13. VMS position reports sent to the SIOFA VMS in accordance with paragraph 6 a) of CMM 16 (2025) shall be transferred using the following data formats;
 - a. The North Atlantic Format (NAF) (Annex 1)
 - or
 - b. Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) (Annex 2)
14. VMS position reports sent using NAF shall follow the structure of NAF messages provided in Annex 1, and shall be transferred using one of the following application layers (secured connection):
 - a. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)
 - b. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) (FTPS)
 - c. Email
15. VMS position reports sent using FLUX shall adhere to the specifications of the Flux P1000-1 (General Principles) and Flux P1000-7 (Vessel Position Domain), as described in Annex 2.²

² <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/unflux>

8. Data Confidentiality and Security Provisions

Explanatory Notes

These SSPs covers the Confidentiality and Security procedures required to ensure the secure and confidential treatment of VMS data being exchanged between CCPs and the Secretariat.

16. CCPs and the Secretariat shall only use VMS data for the purposes specified in CMM 16 (2025).
17. The Secretariat shall maintain a database of the ALC details attributed to all vessels entered onto the SIOFA RAV. ALC details shall be confidential data (i.e. non public domain data) but shall be provided to CCPs' VMS points of contact upon request pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 28 of CMM 16 (2025).
18. The Secretariat shall only provide VMS position reports to the contact point designated pursuant to Paragraph 11 of CMM 16 (2025).
19. CCPs shall immediately delete VMS position reports received for the purposes set out in paragraph 28 of CMM 16 (2025) once the VMS position reports have served their intended purpose, and confirm their deletion to the Secretariat in writing without delay.
20. CCPs, the Secretariat, the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, and any SIOFA VMS service provider shall take all necessary measures to protect VMS data against accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and against all unauthorised forms of processing.
21. The following security measures shall be mandatory for the SIOFA VMS:
 - a. System Access Control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system can withstand break-in attempts from unauthorised persons.
 - b. Authenticity and data access control: The Secretariat shall ensure that the system is able to limit access of Secretariat staff only to the data necessary for them to carry out their tasks via a flexible user identification and password mechanism.
 - c. Communication Security: VMS position reports shall be securely communicated.
 - d. Data Security: All VMS data received by the Secretariat shall be securely stored for a predetermined time and shall not be tampered with.
 - e. Security Procedures: The Secretariat shall implement an Information System Security Policy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure proper access to the system (hardware and software), system administration and maintenance, backup and general usage of the system.
22. The system shall have the following mandatory access control features:
 - a. Stringent password and authentication system, attributed to each designated user. The user shall only have access to functions and data that they are designated to have access to;
 - b. All access to physical computer systems shall be controlled by the Secretariat;

- c. The system shall automatically record all events for analysis and detection of potential security breaches;
 - d. Time-based access control: Access to the system can be specified in terms of times-of-day and days of the week that each user is allowed to log into the system;
 - e. Terminal access control: the system shall specify for each workstation which user(s) are allowed to access it.
23. Communication between CCPs, the SIOFA VMS Service Provider, and the Secretariat shall use secure internet protocols. The exchange of VMS position reports may also require the use of digital certificates that correctly identify and validate the party submitting the VMS position reports.
24. The Secretariat shall periodically review access to and the logs of the VMS software and ensure the proper maintenance of system security.

ANNEX I

Annex 1: Description of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)³

Data Elements of NAF Messages

VMS position reports sent in ~~All NAF Messages-format sent to the SIOFA VMS~~ shall contain, at minimum, mandatory data elements in the following table: the information required in paragraph 1.f) of CMM 16 (2025). The general structure and data elements are as below

Data Element	Field Code	Definition	Mandatory / Optional	Contents
Start Record	SR	Defines the start of the message structure.	<u>M</u>	No Data
Address	AD	Indicates the destination. Provider and Secretariat to define code for SIOFA VMS	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code
From	FR	3-alpha code describing the country which FMC is submitting the report.	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code
Sequence Number	SQ	Message Sequence Number	<u>M</u>	0-999999
<u>IMO Number</u>	<u>IM</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>	<u>M⁴</u>	<u>IMO ship identification number</u>
Internal Reference Number [*]	IR	Unique Number attributed by the flag state	<u>O</u>	3-Alpha code. 0-999999999
Type of Message ⁵	TM	Letter code of the type of message	<u>M</u>	POS = position report, MAN = manual report, ENT = entry report, EXI = exit report
Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	RC	Vessel detail: international radio call sign of the vessel	<u>M⁶</u>	IRCS
Latitude (decimal)	LT	Latitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	<u>M</u>	+(-)DD.ddd
Longitude (decimal)	LG	Longitude expressed in degrees and decimals (WGS-84)	<u>M</u>	+(-)DD.ddd
Vessel Speed	SP	Speed of the vessel	<u>M</u>	Knots * 10
Vessel Course	CO	Heading of the vessel in degrees	<u>M</u>	1-360
Flag State	FS	State of registration of the vessel.	<u>M</u>	3-Alpha code

³ <https://www.naf-format.org/index.htm>

^{*} Submission of IR is optional

⁴ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of CMM 16 (2025) and with paragraph 2.d. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

⁵ ENT and EXI shall be submitted in accordance with **paragraph 15 bis. of CMM 10 (2023)**

⁶ Where applicable, in accordance with footnote 2 of this CMM and with paragraph 2.c. of CMM 07(2025) (Vessel Authorisation).

Date	DA	Date of reported event	M	YYYYMMDD
Time	TI	Time of reported event	M	HHMM
End of Record	ER	Indicates the end of the message/report	M	No Data

Structure of the position report

Each data transmission shall be structured as follows:

- double slash (//) and the characters 'SR' indicate the start of a message,
- a double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element,
- a single slash (/) separates the field code and the data,
- pairs of data are separated by space,
- the characters 'ER' and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

Annex 2: Description of the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX)

2 I: UN/FLUX format : mandatory data to be transmitted in position reports

Data	Mandatory/optional	Comments
Addressee	M	Message detail — Addressee Alpha-3 country code Note: Part of the FLUX TL envelope
From	M	Message detail — Sender Alpha-3 country code
Unique message identifier	M	UUID according to RFC 4122 defined by IETF
Date and time of transmission	M	Date and time when the message was created in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁷
Flag State	M	Message detail – Flag of flag State, Alpha-3 country code
Type of message	M	Message detail – Type of message The following codes are to be used: ENTRY: first position recorded after entering the fishing zone) EXIT: first message recorded after leaving the fishing zone POS: positions transmitted while being in the fishing zone) MANUAL: position transmitted manually
Radio call sign	M	Vessel detail – Vessel international radio call sign (IRCS)
CCP internal reference number	O	Vessel detail – Unique CCP vessel identifier
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)	O	Vessel detail – IMO number

⁷ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; MI=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (i.e. UTC)

External registration number	O	Vessel detail – Number on side of vessel
Latitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimal degrees DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates for positions north of the Equator; Negative coordinates for positions south of the Equator.
Longitude	M	Vessel position detail – Position in degrees and decimals DD.ddd (WGS-84) Positive coordinates east of the Greenwich meridian; Negative coordinates west of the Greenwich meridian.
Course	M	Vessel course 360° scale
Speed	M	Vessel speed in knots
Date and time	M	Vessel position detail – date and time of recording of the position in UTC, using the format YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z ⁸

⁸ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; MI=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

2.II FLUX Vessel Position Implementation Document

1. INTRODUCTION

This document aims to describe the implementation of Vessel Position in the context of the SIOFA VMS. Submissions of reports will be done through the FLUX Transportation Layer.

2. REFERENCES

UN/CEFACT P1000 FLUX Standard v1.0 ²:

- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 1; General principles (version 2.1).
- FLUX BRS: P1000 – 7; Vessel Position domain (version 2.0).

UN/CEFACT FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd

3. SCOPE

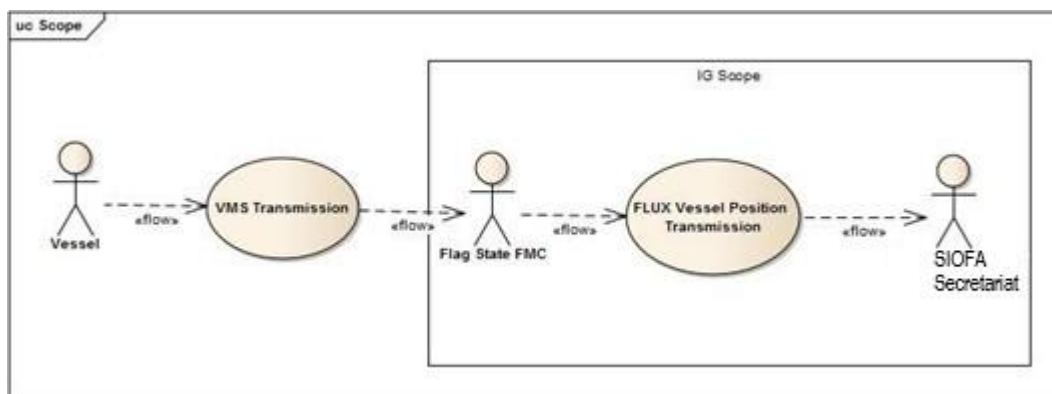


Figure 1: Implementing Guide Scope diagram

As shown on Figure 1, even if the message is provided by a Vessel, the scope of this document is limited to the transmission from a Flag CCP FMC, which has received the Vessel Position message, coming in most cases from aa ALC to the SIOFA Secretariat.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1. General principles

The following activity diagram describes the normal procedure defined for the submission of every Vessel Position Messages sent between the FMC of a Flag CCP to the SIOFA Secretariat:

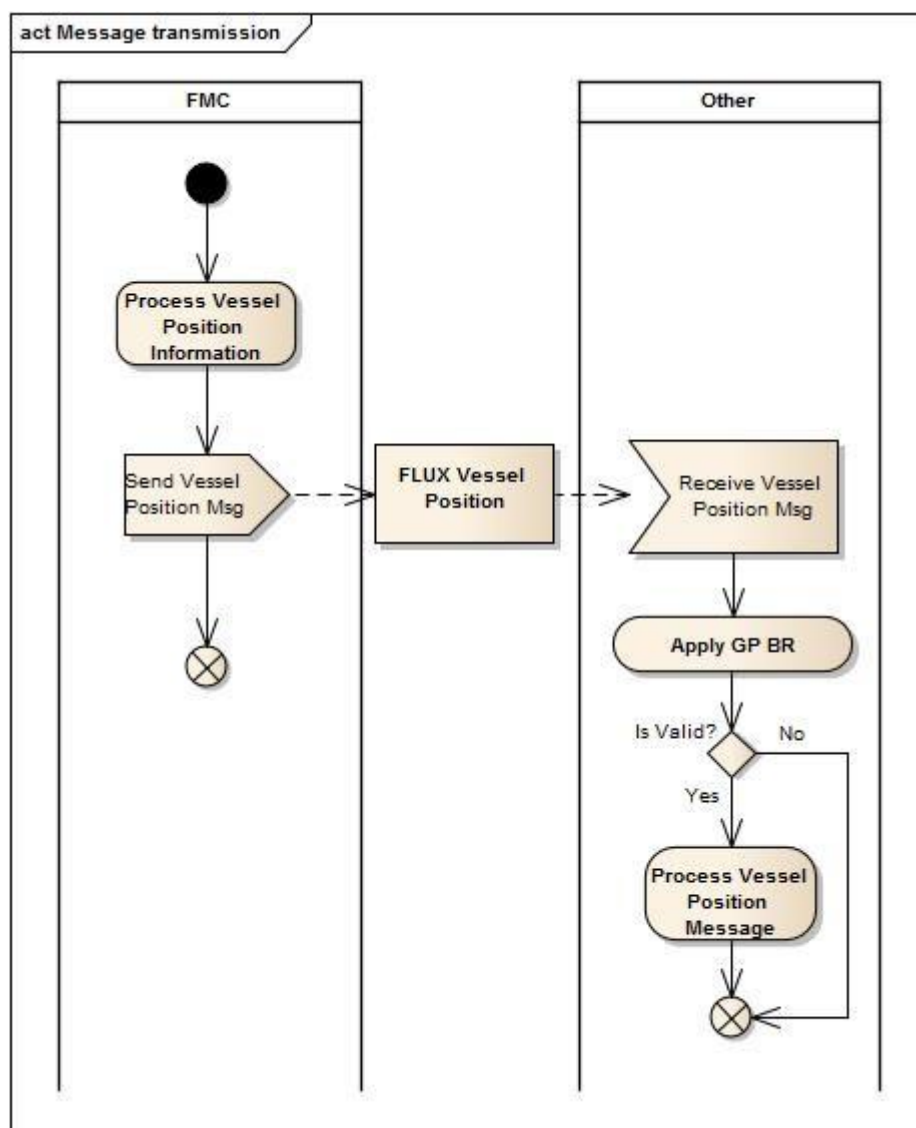


Figure 2: Message Transmission activity diagram

As shown in the diagram, Apply General Principles (GP) Business Rules (BR) is a validation process which does:

1. XML Validation level: Based on the definition in the XSD, the parser validates the structure and cardinality as well as compliance for mandatory elements of the XML provided.⁹

⁹ In general, only XSD element are defined as mandatory. Element attributes and facets remain optional.

Note: Comparing XML vs. XSD defined by the namespace can make the parser generating error having technical information when the basic information requested by General Principles is not correct.

2. Business Rules Validation level: a Business Rules Engine validates the content of XML according to the General Principles Business Rules definition.¹⁰

¹⁰ Some specific business rules of this domain can withdraw or overwrite the definition of FLUX General Principles

5. DATA MODEL (XSD) IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the Vessel Position Data Model applies the following general constraints at the level of XSD Element attributes:

- (1) For Code & Identifier DataType: *listID* or *schemeID* attribute must be provided if it is not specifically defined in the definition of the element;
- (2) For DateTime DataType: only *udt:DateTime* (of type *xsd:dateTime*) choice is used. The date and time must be expressed in UTC, unless explicitly mentioned otherwise. The format shall be *YYYY-MM-DDThh:mm:ss[.000000]Z*;¹¹

The following diagram describes the Vessel Position Data Model used for the implementation of transmission of *VesselPositionMessage*:

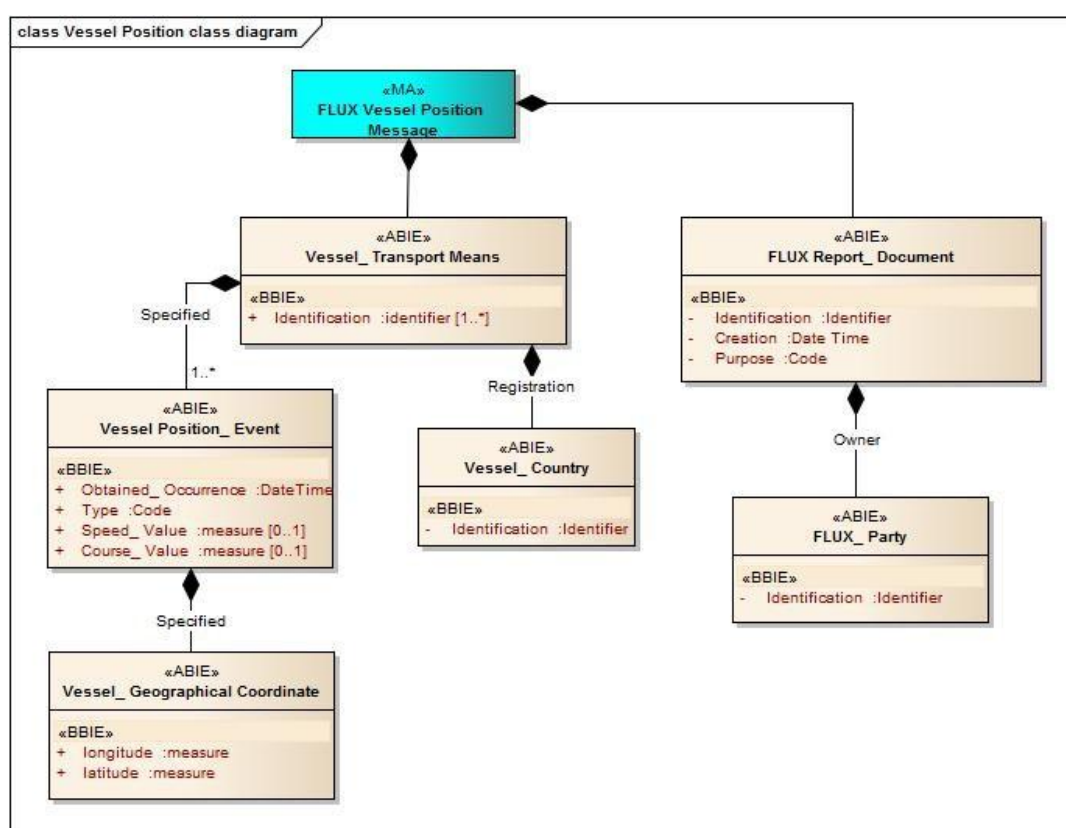


Figure 3: Vessel Position Message Data Model

¹¹ YYYY= year; MM= month, including leading 0 where month number is less than 10; DD= day of the month including leading 0 where day number is less than 10; T= the letter T to indicate the part of the time section; H24= hours of the day expressed with 2 digits using the 24-hour notation; M=minutes expressed as 2 digits; SS=seconds expressed as 2 digits; [.000000]= optionally fractions of seconds may be included up to 6 digits, not including the brackets; Z= time zone, which must be Z (ie. UTC)

The table below describes for each fields defined in the Data Model (XSD) the values that can be used:

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
FLUX Report_Document		1	1	The document details for this FLUX vessel position message.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The unique identification of the FLUX vessel position message	A UUID as defined in the RFC 4122
Creation	DateTime	1	1	The date, time, date time of the creation of the FLUX vessel position message.	A UTC date time. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Purpose	Code	1	1	The code specifying the purpose of this FLUX report document, such as original, cancellation or replace.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = FLUX_GP_PURPOSE Reference: EDIFACT Code List 1225 (qDT UN02000125 - Message Function_Code). <u>Restriction:</u> only value 9 is used in this context.
Owner. FLUX_Party	Assoc.	1	1	Entity used to provide information on an individual, a group, or a body having a role in a Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) business function. Party has a legal connotation in a business transaction.	FLUX General Principles Entity
Identification	Identifier	1	1	An identifier of this FLUX party.	Attribute <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country owning this report. e.g.: SWE

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Vessel_ Transport Means		1	1	Entity used to provide the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.	
Identification	Identifier	1	*	An identifier for this transport means vessel UVI, as defined by the SIOFA VMS SSPs,	Attribute <i>schemeID</i> must be provided with a value from list = FLUX_VESSEL_ID_TY PE
Registration. Vessel_ Country	Assoc.	1	1	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.	
Identification	Identifier	1	1	The identifier for this vessel country.	Use Code Countries code list in MDR. <i>listID</i> = TERRITORY alpha-3 code of the country where the vessel is registered (flag state).
Specified. Vessel	Assoc.	1	*	The general information of the VMS message.	More than one position can be provided.

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
Position_ Event					
Obtained_ Occurrence	DateTime	1	1	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.	The UTC date time when the position was obtained by the vessel navigation equipment, transmitted by the VMS system on-board of the vessel. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2)
Type	Code	1	1	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.	Attribute <i>listID</i> must be provided with a value from <i>list</i> = FLUX_VESSEL_POSITION_T Y PE Example of values are: "ENTRY","EXIT","POS","MANUAL".
Speed_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In knots. Maximum 2 significant decimals. Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Course_ Value	Measure	0	1	The measure of course of the vessel for this vessel position event.	Mandatory. In degrees and decimal degrees. Maximum 2 significant decimals.

					Optional in case the following conditions are all met: - TypeCode= EXIT - Message addressed to
--	--	--	--	--	--

Entity/Field Name	DataType	Cardinality		Description	Remarks
		Min	Max		
					Third party or RFMO - The element is defined as optional in the agreement with the Third Party or RFMO
Specified. Vessel_Geographical Coordinate	Assoc.	1	1	The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which a vessel's relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.	Geographical Coordinates Position of the vessel transmitted by the VMS system at Obtained DateTime. Altitude and System information are not used in context of this implementation.
Latitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to North of equator. Negative coordinate refers to South.
Longitude	Measure	1	1	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.	Coordinate expressed in WGS84, decimal degree notation, using a precision of at least 3 and maximum 6 decimal positions. Positive coordinate refers to East of Greenwich meridian. Negative coordinate refers to West.

6. XML EXAMPLES

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
  xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
  FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
  xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
  xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
  <rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
    <ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
    <ram:CreationDateTime>
      <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
    </ram:CreationDateTime>
    <ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
    <ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
  </rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

  <rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
    <ram:ID schemeID="CFR">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
    <ram:ID schemeID="IRCS">EI6207</ram:ID>
    <ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
      <ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
    </ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

    <ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
      <ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
        <udt:DateTime>2001-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
      </ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
      <ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
      <ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
      <ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
      <ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
        <ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
        <ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
      </ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
    </ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
  </rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>

```

```

<rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage
xsi:schemaLocation="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4
FLUXVesselPositionMessage_4p0.xsd" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xmlns:rsm="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4"
xmlns:ram="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:18"
xmlns:udt="urn:un:unece:unefact:data:standard:UnqualifiedDataType:18">
<rsm:FLUXReportDocument>
<ram:ID> c133b211-0b0e-4358-893c-7afb5437bd61</ram:ID>
<ram:CreationDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:31:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
</ram:CreationDateTime>
<ram:PurposeCode>9</ram:PurposeCode>
<ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:OwnerFLUXParty>
</rsm:FLUXReportDocument>

<rsm:VesselTransportMeans>
<ram:ID schemeID="CFR">SWE000007880</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID="EXT_MARKING">S-381</ram:ID>
<ram:ID schemeID="IRCS">EI6207</ram:ID>
<ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>
<ram:ID>SWE</ram:ID>
</ram:RegistrationVesselCountry>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T09:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.563</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.252</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

<ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>
<ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<udt:DateTime>2018-12-17T11:30:47.0Z</udt:DateTime>
</ram:ObtainedOccurrenceDateTime>
<ram:TypeCode>POS</ram:TypeCode>
<ram:SpeedValueMeasure>8.3</ram:SpeedValueMeasure>
<ram:CourseValueMeasure>50</ram:CourseValueMeasure>
<ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
<ram:LatitudeMeasure>50.123456</ram:LatitudeMeasure>
<ram:LongitudeMeasure>009.132</ram:LongitudeMeasure>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselGeographicalCoordinate>
</ram:SpecifiedVesselPositionEvent>

```

```
</rsm:VesselTransportMeans>  
</rsm:FLUXVesselPositionMessage>
```

7. CODE LISTS

Vessel Transport Means²

Description: the entity containing the details of the identification and characteristic information of a ship or boat.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
0..n	Identification	Att	Identifier	An identifier for this transport means vessel, such as an identifier defined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the radio call sign, or an external marking.
0..1	Registration	Ass	Vessel_ Country Entity	The country of registration of this transport means vessel.
0..n	Specified	Ass	Vessel Position_ Event Entity	A position event specified for this vessel transport means.

Vessel Country¹²

Description: the entity containing the details of a country associated to a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Identification	Att	Identifier	The identifier for this vessel country.

Vessel Position Event

Description: The entity containing information obtained related to the position of a vessel.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Obtained_ Occurrence	Att	DateTime	The date and time when the position of the vessel was taken by the vessel's navigation equipment.
1	Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of vessel position event.

¹² For sake of clarity, the description of Vessel_ Transport Means; Vessel Country entities contains only the part that is necessary for this domain. The complete definition of such entities can be found in the Vessel domain document of the UN/FLUX standard.

0..1	Speed	Att	Measure	The measure of speed of the vessel for this vessel position event.
0..1	Activity_Type	Att	Code	The code specifying the type of activity, such as of the vessel or the crew, at this vessel position event.
1	Specified	Ass	Vessel_ Geographi cal Coordinates Entity	The set of geographical coordinates specified for this vessel position event.

Vessel_Geographical Coordinates

Description: The latitude and longitude of a specified place, by which its relative situation on the globe is known. The height above the sea level constitutes a third coordinate.

Mult.	Business term	Rel.	Type	Description
1	Latitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the latitude as an angular distance north or south from the Equator meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
1	Longitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the longitude as an angular distance east or west from the Greenwich meridian to the meridian of a specific place for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	Altitude	Att	Measure	The measure of the altitude that reflects the vertical elevation of an object above a surface for this vessel geographical coordinate.
0..1	System	Att	Identifier	The identifier of the system used for measuring this specified geographical coordinate.

8. FLUX TL ENVELOPE PARAMETERS

The following FLUX TL parameters must be used for transmission of Vessel Position Messages.

Common name	FLUX TL Envelope Tag name	Value	Remark
Dataflow name	DF	urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:FLUXVesselPositionMessage:4	

Timeout DateTime	TODT	DateTime (in UTC) of creation of the envelope + 60 minutes.	Value expressed as XSD DateTime in UTC. Must be according to the definition provided in 6(2).
Acknowledge Receipt	AR	False	Note: a non-delivery message is always sent when the recipient cannot be reached and timeout (TODT) time has expired.

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

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						
	Green/Amber/ Red response system.						
		Continuing working on stock indicators and break out rules			MoP to consider if MSE testing is required		
		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
	MoP to decide preferred MP			Precautionary-management provisions for the main fisheries			
	Drafting of a harvest-strategy CMM, including classification and transitions between classifications			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



Information System Security Policy (ISSP)

SIOFA Secretariat

Contents

1.	CONTEXT	3
1.1.	PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT	3
1.2.	SCOPE OF APPLICATION	3
2.	SECURITY GOVERNANCE	4
3.	HUMAN RESOURCES SECURITY.....	4
4.	ASSET MANAGEMENT.....	5
5.	ACCESS CONTROL	5
5.1.	GENERAL PRINCIPLES.....	5
5.2.	PASSWORDS MANAGEMENT.....	6
5.3.	CENTRALISED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT	6
6.	PHYSICAL SECURITY	6
6.1.	GENERAL PRINCIPLES.....	6
7.	NETWORK AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY	7
8.	IT RESOURCES SECURITY	8
8.1.	WORKSTATION SECURITY	8
8.2.	SERVERS SECURITY	9
8.3.	REMOVABLE MEDIA MANAGEMENT.....	10
8.4.	PRINTER SECURITY	10
9.	INCIDENT MANAGEMENT	10
10.	CYBERSECURITY MANAGEMENT IN IT BUSINESS CONTINUITY	10
11.	THIRD-PARTY AND PROVIDER RELATIONS.....	11
12.	COMPLIANCE	11

1. Context

1.1. Purpose of the Document

This document constitutes SIOFA's founding document on digital security, namely the Information System Security Policy, hereinafter referred to as **ISSP-SIOFA**.

It sets out for the SIOFA Secretariat:

- The principles of digital security governance.
- The context, stakes, and objectives in terms of digital security.
- The organisation put in place to manage digital security.
- The security rules applicable to all Secretariat staff and external providers.

These rules are grouped according to the following themes:

- Security Governance
- Human Resources Security
- Asset Management
- Access Control
- Physical Security
- Network and Electronic Communications Security
- IT Resources Security
- Incident Management
- Cybersecurity Management in IT Business Continuity
- Third-Party and Provider Relations
- Compliance

1.2. Scope of Application

This policy applies to all assets supporting the SIOFA Secretariat's information systems. Consequently, the ISSP-SIOFA applies to all activities and premises of the SIOFA Secretariat.

It applies to:

- All Secretariat staff members: employees and any person acting on behalf of the Secretariat in the exercise of their functions.
- All visitors accessing the Secretariat's premises or information systems.
- External providers and contractors who connect locally or remotely to the Secretariat's information system.

It covers all of the Secretariat's information system, understood as all hardware, software, and organisational means enabling the creation, acquisition, processing, storage, dissemination, or destruction of information in any form.

It applies to all data processed by the Secretariat

The ISSP-SIOFA also applies to Cloud and SaaS services used for Secretariat needs.

2. Security Governance

SIOFA-GOV-01	<u>Digital security management</u> The operational management of the implementation of the ISSP-SIOFA is ensured by the IT staff of the SIOFA Secretariat (currently the ICT Expert) in cooperation with the Executive Secretary. Dedicated IT/security meetings must be put in place in order to draft a roadmap and take decisions collectively.
---------------------	--

3. Human Resources Security

SIOFA-HR-01	<u>IT Charter</u> An IT Charter that raises SIOFA staff members' awareness and commits them to compliance with the security processes must be put in place. The IT charter must be based on the rules established in the ISSP-SIOFA. The IT charter must be legally enforceable. To that end, it should be annexed to the staff rules of procedure or employment contracts. The IT charter must be signed by all staff members.
--------------------	---

SIOFA-HR-02	<u>Cybersecurity Training and Awareness</u> While the role of ICT Expert is kept internally, she should be regularly trained on cybersecurity (at least one week per year). Each user must be regularly informed of the security requirements applicable at their level, motivated to comply with them, and trained in the use of IT resources in accordance with SIOFA's security rules set out in the charter. Users must be made aware of the most common cyberattacks and know the basic rules to protect themselves. A cybersecurity awareness session must be conducted at least once per year for all Secretariat staff.
--------------------	---

SIOFA-HR-03	<u>Arrival, Departure, and Role Changes</u> Processes related to the arrival, departure, or change of role of a staff member must be defined and formalised, ensuring that: Access rights are created, modified, or revoked in a timely manner. All equipment entrusted to the departing staff member is fully returned. Passwords for shared accounts are changed upon departure of any staff member with access.
--------------------	--

4. Asset Management

SIOFA-AM-01	<u>IT Assets Inventory</u> SIOFA must establish and maintain an up-to-date inventory of IT resources. This inventory includes the list of hardware and software programs used, as well as their exact versions.
SIOFA-AM-02	<u>Information Protection</u> Security measures must be implemented to ensure the protection of confidential data. A tool that allows secured data exchanges between the Secretariat and Parties must be used.
SIOFA-AM-03	<u>Information Classification</u> In accordance with CMM 03(2025), all data processed by the Secretariat must be assigned a classification level: • Public domain data • Restricted • Confidential A marking, corresponding to the classification level, must be included on each page of documents.
SIOFA-AM-04	<u>Digital Signature</u> Official institutional documents transmitted electronically or published must be digitally signed.

5. Access Control

5.1. General Principles

SIOFA-AC-01	<u>Management of “Need to know” and “Least privilege” principles</u> Access rights to the resources must be managed by using the following principles: > Need to know: each user is only allowed to access the resources necessary to perform their tasks. > Least privilege: each user is granted only the minimum level of privileges required to perform the actions necessary for their duties.
SIOFA-AC-02	<u>Users Authentication</u> Access to any non-public resource on the SIOFA’s information system must require individual user identification and authentication. The use of generic identifiers is prohibited, except for validated exceptions.

5.2. Passwords Management

SIOFA-AC-03	<u>User and Admin Passwords</u> Passwords are sensitive data. They are personal, confidential and non-transferable. They must be securely handled by applications. A password policy must be applied for all accounts. The rules for managing and protecting passwords that provide access to SIOFA's IT applications and services must be documented in a procedure and be systematically applied. The passwords storage tool must be secure.
--------------------	---

Information: Best practices are 12 characters at least with different types of characters.

SIOFA-AC-04	<u>Admin and Privileged Account Passwords renewal</u> For accounts without multi-factor authentication (MFA), passwords must be renewed every 12 months. For accounts with MFA, passwords can be renewed every 12 months at minimum. Shared passwords must be immediately changed upon any staff departure or provider contract termination.
--------------------	---

SIOFA-AC-05	<u>Password manager</u> A password manager must be used by all Secretariat staff for the storage and management of passwords. The password manager must be subject to strict access control and reviewed upon any staff departure.
--------------------	---

5.3. Centralised Identity Management

SIOFA-AC-06	<u>Centralised Identity Management</u> The deployment of a centralised identity management solution is recommended to enforce consistent access control policies across all Secretariat workstations and resources.
--------------------	--

6. Physical Security

6.1. General Principles

SIOFA-PH-01	<u>Premises Protection</u> The premises of SIOFA shall be protected according to the degree of sensitivity of the IT resources and data contained therein. The following means seems proportionate to the sensitivity of information, equipment and services hosted at SIOFA Secretariat Premises: - Intrusion alarm systems - Internal video surveillance - Secure storage for critical media or devices (backups and sensitive papers)
--------------------	--

Information: Its special institutional status gives it priority response by police services in the event of a serious incident.

SIOFA-PH-02	<u>Equipment Security During Travel</u> Given the explicitly identified risk of PC theft during travel missions: Staff must never leave their PC unattended in public spaces (airports, hotels, conference venues). Privacy filters must be used on PC screens in public environments.
--------------------	--

Information: Staff must lock their screen (Windows + L) whenever leaving their workstation unattended, even briefly.

SIOFA-PH-03	<u>Dedicated travel laptop</u> Laptops dedicated to travels, containing the least information necessary, can be used by Secretariat Staff. At the end of each travel, laptops are erased following a documented procedure.
--------------------	---

Information: The use of dedicated travel laptops should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, depending on travel destination, risk exposure, and operational needs. As this measure may have staffing, logistical, and financial implications, broader implementation should be subject to management review and, where relevant, MoP agreement on the associated resource needs.

7. Network and Electronic Communications Security

SIOFA-NE-01	<u>Supervision of network equipment and security products</u> Network equipment and security products must be supervised as part of their maintenance in operational and security conditions. On the other hand, network equipment and security products are configured to produce technical traces and security events. These are logged, exploited and regularly analysed.
--------------------	--

SIOFA-NE-02	<u>Wireless Network Security</u> Staff must avoid connecting to public or uncontrolled WiFi networks during travel without using a VPN.
--------------------	--

SIOFA-NE-03	<u>Mail protection</u> Email protection features (such as spam filters) must be activated to reduce the risk of phishing and email-based attacks. All Secretariat staff must be trained to detect phishing emails and must know the reporting procedure. Any suspicious email must be reported immediately to the ICT Expert before any action is taken. MFA shall be enabled on all Secretariat email accounts, including individual and shared mailboxes where technically feasible.
--------------------	--

8. IT Resources Security

8.1. Workstation Security

SIOFA-RI-01	<u>Provision of the workstation</u> Workstations used in the professional context are provided and managed exclusively by the SIOFA ICT Expert. A procedure for configuring workstations must be established and implemented, covering operating system hardening, software installation, and security tool deployment. Users must not have default administrative rights on their workstation. The deployment of a centralised identity management solution is recommended to enforce consistent security policies across all workstations.
SIOFA-RI-02	<u>Reassignment of the workstation and recycling of IT resources</u> A procedure specifies the rules regarding the processing to be applied to information that has been stored or manipulated on the reassigned computers. Sensitive data stored on computing resources that need to be recycled must be irreversibly destroyed, including data stored on hard drives.
SIOFA-RI-03	<u>Security tools and products</u> Antivirus software must be installed and maintained up to date on all Secretariat workstations. An EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response) solution is strongly recommended to improve detection and response capabilities. This solution is complementary to the antivirus software. Full disk encryption must be enabled and verified on all workstations and backup hard drives. Automatic screen lock must be configured on all workstations to activate after a maximum of 5 minutes of inactivity.
SIOFA-RI-05	<u>Managing software updates and security patches</u> The management of updates to all software used and the deployment of security patches must be formalized in a specific procedure. SIOFA must maintain awareness of vulnerabilities affecting the deployed software as well as the necessary updates by subscribing to a monitoring and alert service (CERT).

Information: A Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) provide information related to vulnerabilities allowing to prioritize the deployment of updates. Alerts about new vulnerabilities give critical information regarding their exploitation by malicious actors, details on impacted hardware and software or the new version to install.

SIOFA-RI-06	<u>Mobility</u> Mobile workstations used outside SIOFA premises shall be protected by security measures proportionate to the risks of travel and use in uncontrolled environments. These measures shall include at least: - strong authentication for users of mobile workstations, including MFA where technically feasible and relevant - use of a VPN or equivalent secure communication solution when connecting through untrusted or shared Internet access privacy screen filters for mobile workstations used in public environments such as airports, hotels, and conference venues limitation of local data storage on mobile devices to what is strictly necessary for the mission or travel.
--------------------	---

Information: As SIOFA does not currently operate a remote access service to its internal information system, the VPN required under this measure is primarily intended to secure user communications when travelling or working outside official premises. Its use is especially relevant when connecting through public, shared, or otherwise untrusted Internet access, in order to reduce exposure to interception, eavesdropping, or other risks affecting online communications.

SIOFA-RI-07	<u>Multi factor authentication for users' sessions</u> MFA must be enabled on all individual Secretariat accounts. The use of hardware security keys is strongly recommended to implement a robust authentication mechanism.
--------------------	--

SIOFA-RI-08	<u>Disk encryption</u> Disk encryption must be enabled and verified on all mobile workstations.
--------------------	--

8.2. Servers Security

SIOFA-RI-09	<u>Hardening of cloud environment</u> Hosting environments must be hardened from a security perspective. Procedures must be defined to describe the hardening rules. The backup of cloud environment must be tested for restoration at least once per year to verify its integrity and usability. The delegation of website content management to the ICT Expert must be formalised, defining the scope of delegated actions and reporting obligations.
--------------------	--

SIOFA-RI-10	<u>Hardening of database server</u> Database servers must be hardened from a security perspective. Default accounts must be renamed or disabled. The database must be patched and maintained on a supported version.
--------------------	---

8.3. Removable Media Management

SIOFA-RI-11	<u>USB key Security</u> All USB drives used in a professional context must be encrypted and provided by the Secretariat. The autorun feature must be disabled on all Secretariat workstations. Personal USB drives should be prohibited on Secretariat workstations without prior authorisation from the ICT Expert.
--------------------	---

8.4. Printer Security

SIOFA-RI-12	<u>Printer Security</u> Default manufacturer credentials must be changed upon installation. Printer firmware must be kept up to date.
--------------------	---

9. Incident Management

SIOFA-IN-01	<u>Incidents Management</u> A security incident management procedure must be developed and implemented by the Secretariat. A ticketing tool or at least an XLS file must be used to log events. (incidents, changes to the production environment ...)
--------------------	--

10. Cybersecurity Management in IT Business Continuity

SIOFA-BC-01	<u>Ensuring the required level of continuity during an adverse situation</u> Ensure the required level of continuity during an adverse situation, the possibility of retrieving the data in any situation must be guaranteed. To do this: - Backups must be secure (hard drive encryption and storage) - An annual copy never rewritten must be made - Follow the 3-2-1 principles (3 copies, 2 supports, 1 offsite) - Regular restoration tests must be carried out
SIOFA-BC-02	<u>Continuity needs (availability)</u> The most critical applications and resources must be identified; moreover, confidential data must be distinguished so that they benefit from a higher level of security. A Business Impact Analysis should be conducted.

11. Third-Party and Provider Relations

SIOFA-PR-01	<u>Provider Security Requirements</u> SIOFA must implement and maintain an adequate level of information security in its relationships with all external providers. Security and confidentiality clauses must be included in all provider contracts. Provider access rights must be reviewed at least once per year and revoked immediately upon contract termination.
SIOFA-PR-02	<u>Third-Party Privileged Access</u> All privileged access granted to external providers on systems, platforms, or administration interfaces supporting SIOFA's digital services shall be controlled and secured. The following requirements shall apply: - access shall be formally authorized and limited to what is strictly necessary - all privileged access shall be protected by Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) - each provider shall use a dedicated individual account; shared or generic accounts shall be prohibited unless formally justified and approved - privileged access activities shall be logged, traceable, and reviewable - such access shall be reviewed periodically and withdrawn without delay when no longer required

Information: At this stage, SIOFA does not provide external providers with remote access to its internal information system. However, some providers hold privileged access to services supporting SIOFA's digital environment, notably for website administration and access to the cloud provider interface. This requirement is intended to govern those existing accesses as well as any future third-party privileged access.

12. Compliance

SIOFA-CO-01	<u>General Data Protection Regulation</u> GDPR is applicable since 25 May 2018. Governs the processing of personal data of individuals within the EU. SIOFA must comply with GDPR obligations regarding staff personal data and any personal data of member State representatives based in the EU.
SIOFA-CO-02	<u>SIOFA CMM 03(2025) and CMM 16(2025)</u> SIOFA Conservation and Management Measure governing the confidentiality of fishing data, including VMS positions, catch-effort data, observer data.

SIOFA Meeting Document Framework

Background

At MoP11, "The MoP REQUESTED that the Secretariat present a working paper to MoP12 with an overview of the criteria and process by which papers are classified as working papers or information papers and for determining whether papers should be made public or their access restricted. The MoP REQUESTED that the Secretariat indicate the potential implications for the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the MoP when preparing the paper and highlight any relevant provisions from the RoP." (para. 18 of the MoP11 Report)

At MoP12, "The MoP NOTED that the draft SIOFA Meetings Documents Policy required further development and refinement. The MoP REQUESTED that CCPs provide comments on the draft to the Secretariat in the intersessional period and TASKED the Secretariat to present an updated draft to MoP13." (para. 251 of the MoP12 Report)

This document responds to these requests. It sets out the criteria and process by which meeting documents are classified and identifies the implications for the Rules of Procedure.

Document types and submission rights

The RoP currently recognises two categories of document: "proposals" (Rule 10.5) and "any other document" (Rule 10.6), with one undefined reference to "information papers" (Rule 18.4). It does not use the term "working paper." In practice, SIOFA and all its subsidiary bodies consistently use working papers and information papers.

Type	Definition	Who may submit	Deadline	RoP
Proposal	Submission for the creation or amendment of a CMM	Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities (SIOFA Agreement, Art. 6(1)(a))	Submitted 40 days before; circulated 35 days before	Rule 10.5
Working Paper	Document submitted for decision or action of the MoP or its subsidiary bodies. The papers contain recommendations.	CCPs, Secretariat	Submitted 40 days before; circulated 35 days before	This is a SIOFA established working practice. The term is not included in the RoP.
Information Paper	Document submitted for information only; no decision or action required.	CCPs, Observers, Secretariat	Submitted 14 days before; circulated 10 days before	Rule 10.6, Rule 18.4
Other Paper	Document conveying logistical or procedural information relating to a meeting	Secretariat	(the deadlines vary in function of the document)	Rule 8(d)

Classification criteria

Meeting documents are classified at the time of drafting by the submitter. The Secretariat does not alter the classification assigned by the submitter; however, where the Secretariat identifies information that may warrant a different classification, it brings this to the attention of the submitter. When producing its own meeting documents, the Secretariat applies the same classification criteria.

Documents are classified according to the following categories:

Public	Documents containing information that is publicly available. Per CMM 03(2025), this includes documents containing general vessel information and 5-degree aggregated observer, catch-and-effort, and length-frequency data, subject to conditions ensuring that no individual vessel can be identified and, where applicable, that flag State authorisation has been obtained.
Restricted	Documents containing information that is not in the public domain but that may be accessed under controlled conditions. Per CMM 03(2025), this includes catch-and-effort and length-frequency data aggregated at a spatial resolution of 1°×1°, where no single fishing event can be identified.
Confidential	Documents containing no-public-domain data, which may only be accessed, used or released with the explicit written authorisation of the data owner, per CMM 03(2025). Documents relating to financial matters fall into this category and shall be treated in closed session (Rule 20.2 of the RoP). Documents containing personal or private information shall also be classified as Confidential.

Restricted and Confidential documents must carry a visible classification watermark on each page.

Access Rights

In accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement, Public documents remain available on the SIOFA website following the meeting; Restricted documents remain accessible only to authorised participants unless the relevant data owner consents or the MoP decides otherwise; and Confidential documents are not made publicly available.

Access via the SIOFA website

Access to meeting documents on the SIOFA website is managed, by the SIOFA Information and Communication Technology Expert, through individual logins assigned to user groups upon registration.

The table below sets out access rights by classification and user group

		Group/Role			
Context	Document Classification	Head of Delegation/ Alternate	Delegate	Observer	General public
SC- CC - MoP	Public	✓	✓	✓	✓
SC- CC - MoP	Restricted	✓	✓	✓	✗
SC- CC - MoP	Confidential	✓	✗	✗	✗

✓ access granted

✗ access denied

Access during meetings

Where restricted documents are presented during a meeting, the distribution and discussion of the document shall be limited to authorised participants. By established practice, it is the responsibility of the Head of each delegation to determine which members of their delegation may be granted access to restricted documents.

Implications for the Rules of Procedure

The gap between established SIOFA practice and the current RoP has potential consequences. As requested by MoP11, the Secretariat has identified the following implications:

- **Rule 8(d):** Rule 8(d) refers to "administrative and other reports" without defining them or extending them beyond Secretariat outputs. As a result, the full range of documents the Secretariat routinely produces and circulates lacks a clear basis in the RoP. This creates uncertainty about the Secretariat's authority to produce and circulate documents that are central to the conduct of SIOFA meetings.
- **Rule 10.5:** Rule 10.5 refers to "proposals" only. In practice, the 40/35-day deadline is applied to all working papers, regardless of whether they constitute formal CMM proposals. This means that submission and circulation deadlines (which are binding obligations under the RoP) are currently applied to document types that have no legal recognition in the RoP. If challenged, this gap could call into question the regularity of document circulation and, by extension, the validity of decisions taken on the basis of those documents.
- **Rule 20:** governs open and closed sessions but does not address: (a) the handling of Restricted or Confidential documents within open sessions; or (b) confidentiality obligations on participants during meetings. This may have practical consequences. Where restricted or confidential documents are discussed in open session, there is currently no provision in the RoP preventing participants to the meeting from disclosing that information outside the meeting, recording proceedings, or communicating with media on items still under discussion. The classification framework can only be effective if it is supported by binding confidentiality obligations during meetings. Without such obligations, the MoP has no enforceable basis to protect sensitive information once it has been introduced in session.

**10th Meeting of the SIOFA Compliance Committee (CC10) and 13th Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA (MoP13)***Savoy Seychelles Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, 1–3 July and 6–10 July 2026***CC-10-24 / MoP-13-24**Rev 2-

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

Delegation of Mauritius

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

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

² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Purpose

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

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

Scope and Application

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

Assessment and Response to potential non-compliance

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

Compliance Assessment Period

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

Compliance Assessment Procedure

CCP's Compliance Report (CCR)

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

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

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

Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR)

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

Provisional SIOFA Compliance Report (pSCR)

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

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

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

Final SIOFA Compliance Report (fSCR)

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

General Provisions

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

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

Review

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

Annex I**Compliance Categories**

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

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
Compliant	This compliance rating may be used where, following review, it is determined that there is no compliance issue with respect to the relevant obligation, including meeting-related deadlines, all requested information has been submitted in the appropriate formats and/or having investigated and appropriately addressed any alleged violations.	No further action required.
<u>Minor non-compliant</u>	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: This compliance rating may be used only where the non-compliance does not materially affect the effectiveness of conservation and management measures, scientific assessments or monitoring control and surveillance systems and for cases such as: a) Information or data has been submitted or reported in a way that is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS Non repeated submission or reporting of information or data in a way that is incomplete, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient but that has been corrected [at least 45 days] in advance of the meeting Meeting of the CC Parties for the current assessment cycle. This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the GMMS CMS. b) a CCP has submitted reports (CCR, PIR, Entry/Exit reports, etc) within 24 hours after the expected deadline c) a CCP has submitted other relevant reports (PIR, Entry/Exit reports, etc) within 24 hours after the expected deadline d) a CCP has failed to implement, monitor or ensure compliance with some but not all obligations specified in that CMM	The Compliance Committee and the Meeting of Parties may make the necessary recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify minor non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building that may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.
Non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Submission of information or data in a way that it is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly	Determine if the relevant CCP has already taken appropriate action and/or if action is required. If necessary, the Meeting of the Parties may make a recommendation on any action that may be required to respond to and rectify

Compliance Status	Criteria	Follow up action / Response
	<u>formatted or is otherwise insufficient and which has not been corrected by the CCP</u> <u>b) Repeated submission of information or data in a way that it is incorrect or incomplete without any corrective actions. Information or data has been submitted or reported in a way that is incomplete, incorrect, wrongly formatted or is otherwise insufficient and which has not been corrected by the CCP.</u> This could also refer to inadequate responses to the CCR which compromise the effectiveness of the CMS; <u>Bbis Repeated minor non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years;</u> a) _____ b)c) Failure to meet reporting or submission <u>within by more than 24 hours after expected</u> deadlines; e)d) Failure to meet a SIOFA obligation, including implementation deadlines, which does not fall into the category of 'critically non-compliant'. d)e) Other actions or omissions that constitute an infringement of relevant obligations;	non-compliance, and/or improve implementation of relevant obligations. The Meeting of the Parties may also consider technical assistance or capacity building may be required. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken in advance of the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. The relevant CCP shall commit to addressing the identified issue for the next compliance assessment period.
Critically non-compliant	This compliance rating may be used for cases such as: a) Engaging in fishing in any areas closed to fishing by the Meeting of the Parties; b) Repeated rating of non-compliant with the same obligation for the second consecutive year; c) Failure to comply with previous CMS recommendations adopted by the Meeting of the Parties for two or more consecutively assessed years; d) Repeated non-compliance with an obligation for two or more consecutively assessed years; e) Exceeding the catch or effort limits established pursuant to paragraph 10(1) of CMM 01(2024), or any other catch or effort limits established by the Meeting of the Parties; f) Failure to provide its annual CCR required by Article 10(2) of the Agreement or the National Report required by paragraph 9 of CMM 02(2025).	The Meeting of the Parties identifies remedial or follow-up actions to address instances of seriously non-compliance taking into account paragraph 2 of this Annex. The CCP shall report on follow-up actions taken to in advance of the next ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee or Meeting of the Parties as appropriate.
Not assessed	This compliance rating may be used for cases where there is ambiguity in the relevant obligation, or that there is a technical impediment to compliance.	Meeting of the Parties to review relevant obligation, clarify the obligation and, if necessary, amend relevant provisions.
No compliance status assigned	This compliance rating may be used for cases of emergency relating to the safety of a ship and those on board, or safety of life at sea, which resulted in the a compliance issue.	No further action required.

Annex II

Template for the Provisional Compliance Report

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

Compliance Committee Assessment

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

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

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

Annex III

Template for the Final Compliance Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

CC-10-22 / MoP-12-22 rev2

Proposal to amend CMM15 (2025) Management of Demersal Stocks

Delegation of Australia

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
<u>Rev 2 – We have made some minor amendments to clean the formatting, which includes deleting redundant paragraphs on the scientific committee noting that is included already. Amended the catch share table for 2026/27 – 2028/29, and updated the maps for the three areas with the thanks of the SIOFA Scientific Officer.</u> Rev 1 – We have held positive discussions and progress on catch sharing arrangements for active toothfish CCPs while providing opportunities for new entrants in the future. The catch sharing arrangements are the critical component to get agreement to establish the South Indian Ridge, and catch limits for each of the three toothfish areas. - Establishment of SIR and catch limit - Updated catch limit for del cano - Establishment of a more precautionary catch limit for Williams Ridge, noting the understanding the trend analysis rule used to set the limit will result in further decreases over the next two years down to 71.7t for the 2028/29 fishing season. We have proposed	

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.

to apply a catch limit of 71.7t for Williams Ridge and apply that for 3 years as a precautionary measure.

- Task the SC to provide renewed advice on technical measures for toothfish, including but not limited to the number of hooks and line spacing requirements.

Australia's proposed amendments to CMM15 (2025) implement the recommendations from the 11th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) and the outstanding recommendation of SC10, establish a catch sharing arrangement for South Indian Ridge and removes an obsolete paragraph.

The proposed amendments, as recommended by SC11 are:

- For the 2026-27 season the catch limits be set at 112 t for the Williams Ridge (WR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 255); 52.8 t for the Del Cano Rise (DCR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 266); and 66.7 t for the proposed South Indian Ridge (SIR) Management Area (SC11 paragraph 271).
- Following the request from MoP for SC advice on paragraph 21 of CMM15(2025), that MoP adopt a modified version of paragraph 21 as follows "Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line. Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip" (SC 11 paragraph 263).
- That MoP adopt a modified version of paragraph 14 "... A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp. specimens have been caught. However, members are encouraged to achieve an overlap of 80%. Members with vessels achieving an overlap between 60 and 80% shall report to the SC for review, in order to better understand the factors causing the lower tag overlap statistic." (SC11 paragraph 264).

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

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

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

Recommendations
• For MoP13 to review and adopt the proposal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General provisions

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

Status of Stocks

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

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

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

Orange Roughy:

Fishing season

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

Stock assessment

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

Toothfish:

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

The objectives of this section are to:

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

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

- a. a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *Dissostichus* spp. occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge ~~and~~, Del Cano Rise and South Indian Ridge;
 - b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and
 - ~~b.c.~~ a review of technical measures at SC12, including but not limited to the number of hooks per line and line spacing requirements for the different areas where *Dissostichus* spp. is harvested; and
 - ~~e.d.~~ any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *Dissostichus* spp. populations.
10. In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.
 11. CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *Dissostichus* spp. stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

General Provisions

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

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

Effort/catch and operational limits

17. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed ~~44.52.8~~ tonnes. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangement ~~of the catch opportunities~~, this catch shall be equally shared ~~between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA up to 2016 in the Del Cano Rise areas as per the table in Annex [X] for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29.~~ Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
18. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the South Indian Ridge Management Area do not exceed 66.7 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangements of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be shared between CCPs in the

~~following: as per the table in Annex [X] for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29. which have reported catch from South Indian Ridge prior to 2026. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.~~

~~18bis. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Williams Ridge Management Area do Total annual catches in this area shall not exceed 71.7 tonnes per year for the fishing seasons 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. Without prejudice to any future catch sharing arrangements of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be shared as per the table in Annex [X] for the fishing season 2026/27 to 2028/29. Any excess overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the its following year catch share.~~

~~18.19.~~ A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit established under paragraphs 17, ~~18 and 18bis~~, provided that the total catch of the ~~two~~ CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits ~~in each area~~. All such transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

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

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

~~21.22. Longlines shall not exceed 3006250 hooks per line. Each vessel shall ensure that longlines are set at a minimum distance of 3 nautical miles, as measured from the midpoint, from any other longlines previously set by the same vessel during the ongoing fishing trip. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.~~⁵

By-catch limits

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

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

Mitigation of depredation

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

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

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

Scientific committee

~~27. In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area-wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local~~

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

⁶ The line spacing requirement will not apply for their 2026/27 fishing season at in South Indian Ridge, noting SC12 will provide advice on the technical measures to the Meeting of Parties in 2027.

population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

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

Review

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

30bis Catch sharing arrangements in Annex [X] shall be reviewed at the Meeting of the Parties in 2029. any will consider taking into account recent developments in SIOFA toothfish fisheries to inform any potential amendments to the catch sharing arrangement.

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

Area and purpose

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

Data collection for fisheries research

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

Effort/catch and operational limits

31. Total annual research catches in this area shall not exceed 140 11271.7 tonnes per year for the fishing seasons 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.

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

33. Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. A grid cell shall be closed to fishing by other vessels while a line is being set or hauled by a vessel, and while a line has been set by a vessel and has not been hauled.⁷

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

⁷ For the avoidance of doubt, a vessel that ceases hauling a line in a grid cell in order to mitigate depredation in accordance with paragraphs 46-47 and 47-48 is still fishing in that grid cell until it hauls the line.

35. ~~CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season.~~
36. ~~Where two or more fishing vessels notify that they are entering Williams Ridge, the Secretariat shall immediately notify these fishing vessels that daily reporting requirements in paragraphs 389 and 3940 apply.~~
37. ~~CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp., using the entry notification template at Annex V. Outside Secretariat business hours, an advance notification process will apply. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible⁸ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel, using the template at Annex VI. Where the Secretariat receives notifications from multiple fishing vessels for a given grid cell, the Secretariat will respond to the notifications in the order that they were received.~~
38. ~~CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received confirmation from the Secretariat that two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel, however a fishing vessel entering a grid cell to haul a line and to set a second line may haul the first line (but not set the second line) before receiving the confirmation.~~
39. ~~CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat as soon as they exit the grid cell specified in paragraph 3536 or 3839 and that they inform the Secretariat of the number of lines they have set and/or hauled in that grid cell, if any, using the exit notification template at Annex VII.~~
40. ~~Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line and shall not be set across grid cells.~~
41. ~~CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season of *Dissostichus* spp.~~
42. ~~Once two lines have been set in a given grid cell, it shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of that fishing season.~~
43. ~~CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge.~~

By-catch limits

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

Mitigation of depredation

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

⁸ In accordance with any arrangements agreed ahead of each fishing season between the CCPs with fishing vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge and the Chair of the MoP in consultation with the Secretariat. The arrangements could include procedures and expected timeframes for the Secretariat's response to prevent unreasonable operational disruption to fishing outside Secretariat business hours. Once agreed, the Secretariat should circulate the arrangements to all CCPs before the beginning of the season.

~~47. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.~~

Review

~~48. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp. that are shared by the two organisations.~~

Management plan for Alfonsino:

Season

~~49.29.~~ For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusive.

Stock assessment

~~50.30.~~ The MoP requests that the SC assess the *Beryx splendens* stocks in 2027 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee (if the SC, in 2026, determines that suitable data exist to undertake that assessment). In addition, the SC is requested to provide advice on a regular assessment schedule for future years.

~~51.31.~~ The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

Application

~~52.32.~~ The catch limits provided for in paragraphs 17 ~~and 18 and 33~~ **18bis** of this CMM shall apply from 1 December ~~2024~~ **2026**.

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

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

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

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

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

Vessel name

Vessel flag

Set Start Date

Set Start Time

Set Start Longitude

Set Start Latitude

Set Start Depth

Set End Date

Set End Time

Set End Longitude

Set End Latitude

Set End Depth

Number of hooks
set

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Williams Ridge Area grid cells:

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

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

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

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

~~Annex VI—Template for Secretariat confirmation in response to vessel entry notifications when fishing on the Williams Ridge area (paragraph 3829).~~

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

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

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

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

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

Annex VIII – Toothfish Management Areas

The Management areas for Toothfish are defined as follow;

Del Cano Rise

The Del Cano area is;

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

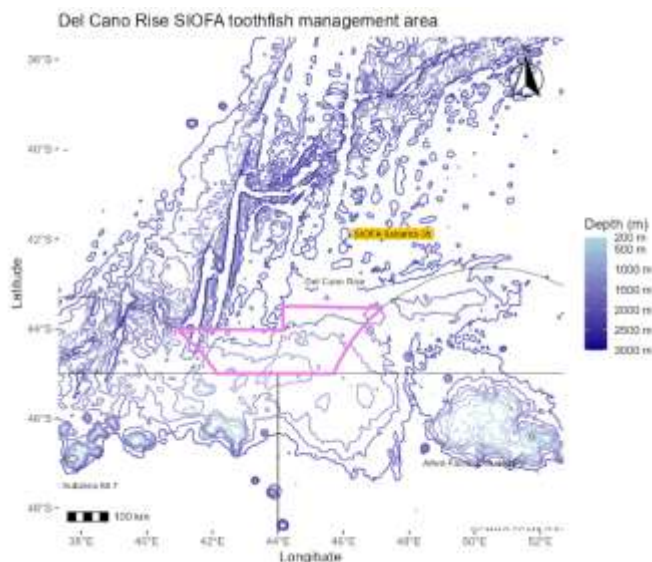


Figure A: Boundaries of the extended Del Cano Rise management area.

South Indian Ridge

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

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

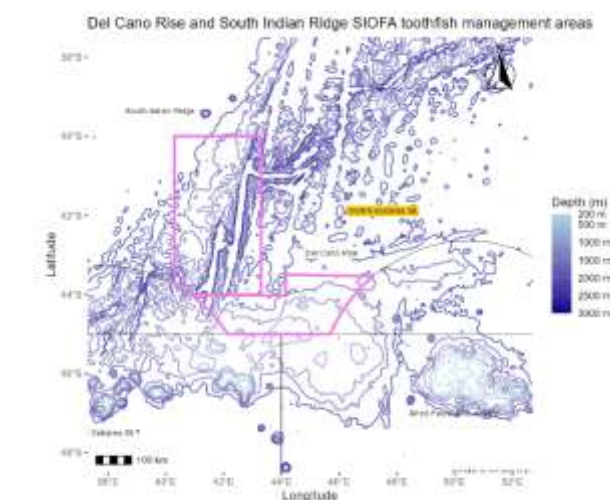


Figure B: Boundaries of the Del Cano Rise and the South Indian Ridge -areas (2024).

Williams Ridge

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

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

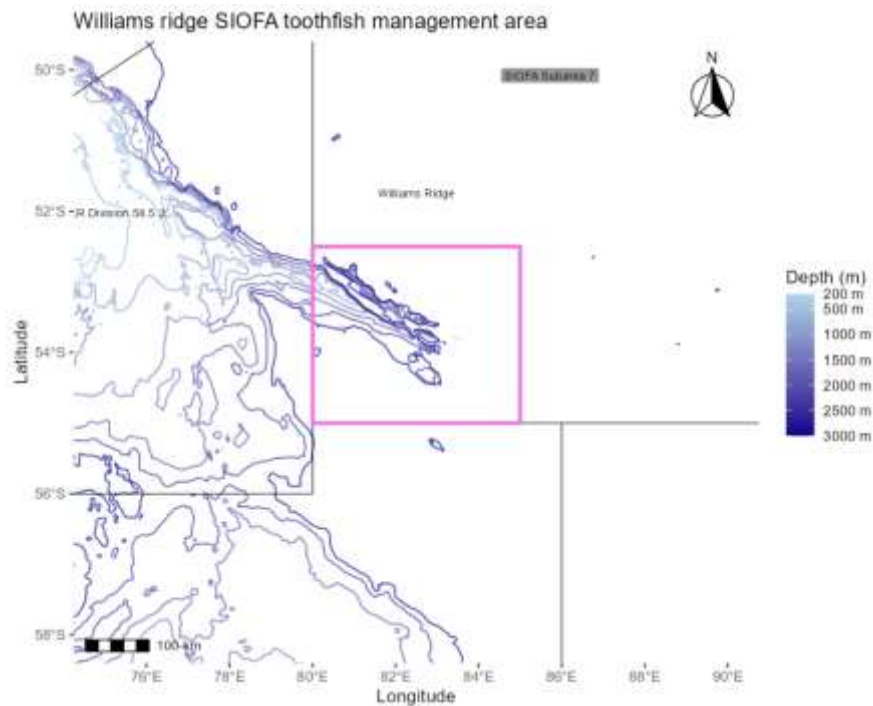


Figure CB The boundary of Williams Ridge and the 15' cells.

Annex X – Catch sharing arrangement for Del Cano, South Indian Ridge and Williams Ridge for fishing seasons 2026/27 to 2028/29 for toothfish

	South Indian Ridge	Del Cano Rise	Williams Ridge
<u>Australia</u>	<u>109%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>90%</u>
<u>EU</u>	<u>9089%</u>	<u>335.3%</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>France OT</u>	<u>01%</u>	<u>332.3%</u>	<u>0%</u>
<u>Japan</u>	<u>01%</u>	<u>332.3%</u>	<u>0%</u>

Orange Roughy:*Fishing season*

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

Stock assessment

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

Catch and operational limits

4. The TAC shall be set for three years, on the basis of a Management Procedure to be established.
5. As long as no Management Procedure is established, as an interim measure, CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches for 2027, 2028 and 2029 of *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the SIOFA area do not exceed 1010.75 tonnes, consistent with the average catch from 2015-2020 for the SIOFA Area (which includes catch outside the assessment areas).
6. The TAC for 2027 to 2029 shall be distributed in accordance with the table in Annex IX.
7. A reserve is established for CCPs not listed in Annex [IX], in particular SIDS bordering the SIOFA Area.
8. Once the CCP has fulfilled its obligations under all applicable SIOFA CMMs, including approval from the MoP, CCPs not listed in Annex IX shall inform the Secretariat of their intention to enter the fishery before the start of the calendar year in which the activity is scheduled to take place. Those CCPs shall inform the secretariat of the start of the fishing activity one month before they commence.
9. Should no CCP not listed in Annex IX, have started fishing activity by 1 July of that calendar year, the reserve will be redistributed proportionately to the CCPs in the table.
10. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Hoplostethus atlanticus* catches to the Secretariat by the 15th of the following month, using the template in Annex [X]. The Secretariat will notify CCPs once 80% of the catch limit has been reached, and at 5% increments thereafter of the cumulative progress, as a percentage of the catch limit.
11. The TAC for 2030 and thereafter shall be established at the 2029 Annual Meeting, either on the basis of and in accordance with a Management Procedure, or – in the absence of a Management Procedure – based on the latest stock assessment.

Overcatch, Undercatch and transfers

12. Any overcatch by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
13. Undercatch by a given CCP in a given year may be added to its following year catch share if the CCP informs the Secretariat of its intention to carry forward fishing opportunities and the amount of catch limit to be carried forward by 20 January of the year to which the unused catch limit will be carried forward. The Secretariat shall compile such information

and provide a report to the Compliance Committee each year. Undercatch carry forward cannot be accumulated over more than one year.

14. For 2027, the fishing opportunities to be carried forward in case of undercatch shall be limited to 30% of a CCP's catch limit as set out in Annex IX. In 2027, the MoP shall establish an appropriate level for carry forward based on the advice of the SC¹².
15. A CCP may transfer to another CCP all or part of its annual catch limit, provided that the total catch of the two CCPs concerned does not exceed their combined limits. Transfers shall be notified to the Secretariat within one week and communicated by the Secretariat to all CCPs.

Annex IX – Distribution of fishing opportunities for 2027 to 2029 for Orange Roughy.

1010.75t shall be allocated in 2027 to 2029 in accordance with the following scheme:

CPC	Annual quota in <u>for</u> 2027-2029 (t)
Cook Islands	909.68
Reserve	101.07

This table is without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities,.

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

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

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

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

Delegation of Japan

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

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

Background

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

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

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

Proposals

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

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

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

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

Annex 1 – Established fisheries in the SIOFA Area¹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MoP-13-33 Rev1

SC11 Technical amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards)

The SIOFA Scientific Committee

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	
During the course of the MoP13, the MoP requested the Secretariat provide the Annex D of the SIOFA SC11 report (also included as Annex D of paper MoP-13-05) for their further consideration during the course of the meeting. This paper responds to this request. <u>Rev1: Add light characteristics of light seining to squid jigging.</u>	

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

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

SC11 Technical amendments to CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards)

CMM 02(2025)³

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;

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));

³ CMM 02(2025) (Data Standards) supersedes CMM 02(2023) (Data Standards).

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:
 - 'other species of concern' means those species as may be defined by the Scientific Committee from time to time.
 - '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 ⁴ 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)
 - b. FAO statistical area (e.g. FA087)
 - 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

⁴ 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.

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 Ocean⁵. 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;

For all reports thereafter: the National Report shall include details of activities of the previous calendar year; and

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 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

⁵ 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

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,⁶ 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:
 - 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;⁷
 - c. Fishing methods are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG - 29 July 1980) codes;⁸ and
 - d. Types of fishing vessels are to be described using the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels (ISSCFV) codes.⁹

⁶ 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.

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/asfis/en>

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/>

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/capture-fisheries-statistics/en/>

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.

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 Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in green weight (kg).

<u>Total number retained by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)</u>
Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in green weight (kg). <u>In addition, if possible, total number discarded by taxa (for longline toothfish target fishing only)</u>
Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Presence: Yes / No For each species caught - Taxa name - Number alive - Number dead or injured
Incidental bycatch of VME indicator taxa Presence: Yes / No For each species caught Taxa name

For all pelagic fishing vessels targeting SIOFA species 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 of fishing Date format (YYYY.MON.DD) Time format (hh.mm)
Position at start of fishing Latitude Longitude
Species retained Estimated catch retained on board by taxa (FAO species/group code/scientific name) in live weight (kg)
Species Discarded An estimation of the amount of living marine resources discarded by taxa, if possible, in live weight (kg)
Incidental bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and 'other species of concern' Presence: Yes / No For each species caught - Taxa name - Number alive

- | |
|--------------------------|
| • Number dead or injured |
|--------------------------|

2. Contracting Parties, CNCs 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 <u>Lighting</u> <u>Lighting used (Y/N)</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> 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
Light seining <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>Lighting used (Y/N)</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:

- Maximum disk width shall be measured

Sharks

- 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):

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) Operation ID (Set ID, tow ID) Marine Mammals present in observation area? (Yes/No/Not Observed) Species Estimated numbers of abundance (by species)
Observed catch (to be recorded for each operation and for all gears/fisheries, record weight or number according to the fishery) Operation ID (Set_ID, Tow_ID) Observer ID FAO ASFIS Species code <i>Species retained</i> Total Number retained Weight retained (kg) <i>Species discarded</i> Total Number discarded Weight discarded (kg) Number discarded alive Number discarded dead Number or weight of fish lost (if applicable) Number or weight of fish cut off (if applicable) Number of fish depredated (if applicable) Comments
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: • 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 ◦ 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)

Max Weight (kg)

Set and haul details

Set Number

Bycatch Mitigation Gear used (Y/N)

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 1 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 2 ID

Bycatch Mitigation Gear 3 ID

Date of observation (YYYY.MON.DD)

Set Type: Research or Commercial (R/C)
 Target species (FAO species code)
 Offal dumped during setting (Yes / No)
 Offal dumped during hauling (Yes / No)

Start and End setting. Repeat for hauling

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

Gear Details

Length of line (m)
 Type of line
 Trap/Pot spacing (m)
 Bait type

Setting

Number of pots/traps set
 Number of pots/traps observed

Hauling

number of pots/traps hauled
 number of pots/traps observed

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

For Dahn/Drop lining activity ONLY

Dahn/Dropline Description

Line Type
 Period in which the gear was used () Start and end date
 Target species (FAO species code)

Main Line

Material
 Diameter (mm)
 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
Number of hooks lost that were attached to lost sections of the dahn/dropline
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 (%)

Handline fishing activity

Handline Description

Main Line

Material
Diameter (mm)

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)

Offal

Offal dumping position (port, starboard, stern)

Offal dumping during hauling (never, occasionally, always)

Propeller rotation direction (clockwise/anti-clockwise)

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

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)

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)

Time Start (YYYY.MON.DD hh:mm)

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)

Lighting

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

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)

Lighting

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.

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

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

CC-10-32 / MoP-13-32-~~Rev1~~3

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

Delegations of France Overseas Territories and Seychelles

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

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.

France-OT welcomes comments from CCPs on this proposal and its best way of implementation in SIOFA.

The Rev1 changes the format of the proposal from a CMM to a Resolution according to the paragraph 3 of article 8 of the SIOFA Agreement. It also presents minor typo edits.

Rev 2 addresses more substantial comments concerning, in particular, data confidentiality and the effective cooperation between the scientific bodies of SIOFA and BBNJ. This revision also proposes some other editorial amends.

Rev 3 removes paragraphs 2 and 3. The relevant provision of these articles have been incorporated into the sections on the role of the Meeting of the Parties and on the tasks of the Secretariat. For consistency purposes, the section on the role of the Meeting of the Parties has been placed at the beginning of the Resolution, before the section on the tasks of the Secretariat. The other amendments are :

- Paragraph 2 : inclusion of the prevision for the intersessional period;
- Paragraphe 2.a and d : incorporation of provisions from previous paragraph 2;
- Paragraphe 3 : change from Executive Secretary to SIOFA Secretariat;
- Paragraph 3.a : incorporation of provision from previous paragraph 2;
- Paragraph 3.b : editorial change to provide clarity on the task of the Secretariat;
- Paragraph 3.g : deletion of the review of the Compliance Committee.

Recommendations (for proposals and working papers only, remove if not necessary)

- The CC and MoP to **consider** the proposal
- The MoP to **adopt** the proposal

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

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

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

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

FURTHER RECALLING that Parties of the BBNJ Agreement shall be guided by a set of principles and approaches set out in Article 72 and 4 of the Agreement;

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

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

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

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

NOTING that, in relation to decisions concerning area-based management tools under the BBNJ Agreement, the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement “shall respect the competences of, and not undermine, relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional,

subregional and sectoral bodies” (Article 22(2) BBNJ Agreement);

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

CONSIDERING the Resolution Our ocean, our future : united for urgent action adopted by the Third United Nations Ocean Conference calling “upon States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the Agreement” (paragraph 26 of the Resolution);

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

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

~~ADOPTS~~DECIDES, in accordance with Article 4, ~~and~~ 6, and paragraph 3 of Article 8 of the Agreement, the following:

Terminology

1. For the purpose of this ~~CMM~~Resolution:

- (a) “CCPs” means Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, as well as Participating Fishing Entities, to the Agreement.
- (b) “SIOFA Species” means all species of fish ~~defines~~listed in paragraph (f) of Article 1 of the Agreement.
- (c) “BBNJ Agreement” means the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction adopted on 19 June 2023.
- (d) “BBNJ COP” means the Conference of the Parties of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (e) “BBNJ Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement ~~COP~~, pursuant to Article 50 of the BBNJ Agreement.
- (f) “BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism” means the Clearing-House Mechanism pursuant to Article 51 of the BBNJ Agreement.
- ~~(g)~~ “BBNJ Scientific and Technical Body” means the Scientific and Technical Body established under Article 49 of the BBNJ Agreement.

~~(g)~~(h) “Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard” or “BFIA” means a tool aiming at providing a minimum standard to assess the potential impacts of proposed bottom fishing activities on VMEs and deep sea fish stocks, pursuant to the SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment Standard.

~~(h)~~(i) “Area-based management tool” or “ABMT” means a tool, including a marine protected area, for a geographically defined area through which one or several sectors or activities are managed with the aim of achieving particular conservation and sustainable use objectives in accordance with the BBNJ Agreement as defined by Article

1(1) of the BBNJ Agreement.

~~(j)~~(i) “Marine protected area” means a geographically defined marine area that is designated and managed to achieve specific long-term biological diversity conservation objectives and may allow, where appropriate, sustainable use provided it is consistent with the conservation objectives as defined by Article 1(9) of the BBNJ Agreement.

~~(j)~~(k) “Environmental impact assessment” means a process to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of an activity to inform decision-making.

~~(k)~~(l) “EEZ” means the Exclusive Economic Zone as defined in Article 55 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

~~(j)~~(m) “RFMO” means a regional fisheries management organization.

~~(m)~~(n) “RFB” means a regional fisheries body as defined by the FAO.³

Participation of CCPs in the BBNJ Agreement

2- CCPs are encouraged to:

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

~~4- In implementing paragraph 2 of this CMM, CCPs are encouraged to ensure, through their competent authorities responsible for fisheries matters and, if they so choose, through other relevant authorities, that the competence, processes, timeline and work of SIOFA is duly taken into account in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement, where appropriate, and are encouraged to explore all possible ways in which the Meeting of the Parties could take an active role in the discussions concerning the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, including through cooperation with other RFMOs and RFBs.~~

Role of the Meeting of the Parties

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

28. At its annual Sessions ~~and during the intersessional period~~, the Meeting of the Parties shall:

~~(a) hold discussions and take positions to improve coordination mechanisms within the SIOFA area of competence with a view to ensure that the perspectives of SIOFA are reflected in the discussions and work of the BBNJ COP and its subsidiary bodies, where appropriate;~~

~~(a)(b)~~ hold discussions and take positions, as appropriate, regarding relevant proposals for ABMTs under Article 21(2)(b) BBNJ Agreement and emergency measures under Article 24(2) BBNJ Agreement;

~~(c)~~ hold discussions and take positions, as appropriate, regarding recommendations from the BBNJ COP under Article 22(1)(c) BBNJ Agreement to adopt ABMTs and other relevant measures within the competence of the SIOFA, if any;

~~(b)(d)~~ hold discussions and take positions, with consideration for the potential implications on fisheries managed by SIOFA, when responding to, or developing, specific proposals or environmental impact assessments under the BBNJ Agreement;

~~(e)(e)~~ provide the SIOFA Executive Secretary, on a case-by-case basis and as appropriate, with mandates and instructions for relevant matters under paragraph 4 of this ~~Resolution~~CMM;

~~(d)~~ the BBNJ Agreement shall be a standing agenda item at the annual Sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, which shall review progress on cooperation with other RFMOs and RFBs;

~~(f)~~

Tasks of the Secretariat

34. Noting the ongoing and future work to prepare a decision on arrangements to enhance cooperation and coordination between the BBNJ Agreement and relevant legal instruments, frameworks, and global, regional, subregional, and sectoral bodies, and subject to the outcomes of the first meeting of the BBNJ COP, the SIOFA ~~Secretariat Executive Secretary~~ shall:

~~(a) ensure that the competence, processes, timeline and work of SIOFA is duly taken into account in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement;~~

~~(b) ,as appropriate~~ establish a mechanism, including formal communication channels, with the BBNJ Secretariat;

(c) identify and collect information and data relevant to the work of SIOFA from the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, including on suitable opportunities for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology;

(d) submit to, ~~as appropriate and subject to its operating terms~~, the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, with the consent of the Meeting of the Parties, requests for suitable capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology and opportunities with respect thereto, including research collaboration and training opportunities, information on sources and availability of technological information and data for the transfer of marine technology, opportunities for facilitated access to marine technology and the availability of funding, ~~as appropriate and subject to its operating terms~~;

(e) in submitting requests for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology pursuant to Article 13 of the ~~SIOFA~~ Agreement, the SIOFA Executive Secretary shall give due consideration, where applicable under the mandate of the SIOFA and consistent with the ~~Agreement~~ and Rules of Procedure, to the needs of developing CCPs, including coastal developing States and Small Island Developing States, including those requiring support for scientific participation, data systems, monitoring, control and surveillance,

and engagement in BBNJ-related processes;

- (f) receive invitations to provide information to the BBNJ COP on the implementation of measures that SIOFA has adopted to achieve the objectives of ABMTs, subject to the modalities for the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism;
- (g) provide and disseminate information on SIOFA conservation and management measures and, with ~~review of the Compliance Committee and~~ the consent of the Meeting of the Parties and subject to SIOFA confidentiality requirements, on monitoring, control and surveillance tools that could be of relevance in monitoring and ensuring compliance with ABMTs, through the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism;
- (h) receive notifications and invitations from the BBNJ Secretariat to participate in the consultation and assessment of proposals for ABMTs in the SIOFA area of competence under Article 21~~9~~(2)(b) BBNJ Agreement and emergency measures under Article 24(2) BBNJ Agreement;
- (i) participate, with a mandate adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, in the consultation and assessment of proposals for ABMTs referred to in subparagraph (h);
- (j) receive recommendations to adopt ABMTs and other relevant measures within the competence of the SIOFA from the BBNJ COP under Article 22(1)(c) BBNJ Agreement and communicate the Meeting of the Parties' position on such recommendations once adopted;
- (k) monitor and provide periodic updates to CCPs on compliance mechanisms regarding ABMTs established in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement that might have implications for SIOFA conservation and management measures;
- (l) monitor and provide timely information to the SIOFA Scientific Committee on any Environmental Impact Assessment developed under Part IV of the BBNJ Agreement, that might have implications for SIOFA conservation and management measures;
- (m) in collaboration with the SIOFA Scientific Committee and with the approval of the Meeting of the Parties, provide input to the BBNJ Scientific and Technical Body regarding scientific work of the SIOFA relevant to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement;
- (n) facilitate engagement with the SIOFA Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies to ensure that measures and processes under the BBNJ Agreement consider potential impacts on SIOFA Species and incorporate appropriate scientific input;
- (o) contribute, with approval of the Meeting of the Parties, to any joint programme of work developed in the framework of the BBNJ Agreement in support of cooperation activities with relevant sectoral bodies.

~~54.~~ The SIOFA Executive Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariats of other RFMOs and RFBs on matters related to the BBNJ Agreement to promote coherence and avoid duplication, especially for scientific bodies, taking into account existing practices of other RFMOs and the cooperation arrangements under the BBNJ Agreement.

~~65.~~ The SIOFA Executive Secretary shall, as appropriate, notify CCPs of:

- (a) any relevant and suitable opportunities for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology identified pursuant to Article 13 of the Agreement;
- (b) any relevant developments regarding proposals for ABMTs in the SIOFA area of competence, including decisions of the BBNJ COP;

(c) any notification and invitation received from the BBNJ Secretariat concerning a consultation and assessment under paragraph 4 of this ResolutionCMM;

(d) any recommendations of the BBNJ COP under paragraph 4 hereinabove.

~~76~~. The SIOFA Executive Secretary will periodically submit information papers containing all relevant updates concerning paragraphs 4 to 6 of this ResolutionCMM to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration.

Scientific work and recommendations

~~97~~. CCPs ~~shall~~will endeavour to undertake research on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity and ecosystems in the high seas of the SIOFA area of competence, in particular with respect to threatened and endangered species and those vulnerable to fisheries under the competence of the SIOFA.

~~108~~. CCPs ~~shall~~will make the results of ~~their~~any research pursuant to paragraph 9 of this ResolutionCMM available to the SIOFA Scientific Committee, as appropriate.

9. The SIOFA Scientific Committee shall review the Environmental Impact Assessment information according to SIOFA tools, and in particular BFIA standards.

~~101~~. The SIOFA Scientific Committee shall make use of relevant information as published through the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism and shall support the Secretariat in the timely implementation of relevant provisions under paragraph 4 of this ResolutionCMM.

Final provisions

~~112~~. The Meeting of the Parties shall review this ResolutionCMM at its annual Sessions, with a more comprehensive review after ~~25~~ years to assess the legal implications, potential financial and administrative burden and the risk of duplication with existing SIOFA processes.

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

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

MoP-13-21 REV1

Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

Delegation of Seychelles

Meeting	Compliance Committee ☐ Meeting of the Parties ☒
Document type	Administrative Paper ☐ Proposal or Working Paper ☒ Information Paper ☐
Distribution	Public ☒ Restricted ¹ ☐ Closed session document ² ☐
Abstract	This paper proposes that the Meeting of the Parties (MoP) adopt a structured, practical and resource-sensitive approach to the implementation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement. It identifies priority support areas for eligible Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and developing SIOFA Contracting Parties, and sets out a simple implementation process for identifying needs, coordinating available support, integrating Article 13 considerations across relevant SIOFA workstreams, and reviewing progress over time. The proposal does not seek to amend the Agreement or create an open-ended funding mechanism; rather, it seeks to give practical effect to an existing commitment through clearer coordination, reporting and follow-up.

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.

MoP-13-31 - Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

Recommendations
The Meeting of the Parties is invited to: • note the importance of giving practical effect to Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement; • consider the priority support areas and implementation process identified in this paper; • adopt the draft decision contained in Annex 1; and • request the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to support the coordination and periodic reporting of Article 13-related needs, activities and progress.

Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

Background

1. Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement requires Contracting Parties to give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States, in relation to the conservation and management of fishery resources and the sustainable development of such resources.
2. Article 13 further recognises the vulnerability of developing States bordering the Area that are dependent on fishery resources, the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and fishworkers, and the need to ensure that conservation and management measures do not transfer a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States bordering the Area.
3. Article 13 also provides that cooperation should include action to enhance the ability of developing States bordering the Area to conserve and manage fishery resources and to develop their own fisheries for such resources, as well as assistance to enable them to participate in fisheries for such resources, including facilitating access in accordance with the Agreement.
4. Article 13 identifies forms of cooperation and assistance that may include financial assistance, human resources development, technical assistance, transfer of technology, improved data collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis, improved information on the impact of fishing activities on the marine environment, stock assessment and scientific research, monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement, observer programmes, access to technology, and participation in the Meeting of the Parties and subsidiary bodies.
5. At the Eleventh Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC11), Seychelles, supported by other SIDS, underlined that Article 13 constitutes a core element of SIOFA's governance framework. While Article 13 has been regularly discussed, there remains a need to move beyond general exchanges and towards a more focused and operational approach that enables the MoP to discharge its responsibilities effectively and consistently.
6. The SC11 report records support for maintaining Article 13 as a standing agenda item and for enhancing discussions on mechanisms, processes and opportunities to improve delivery of Article 13 objectives. Seychelles and other SIDS further highlighted the need for targeted, sustained and practical support, particularly in relation to scientific participation, data collection and reporting systems, and engagement in SIOFA decision-making processes.
7. In this context, Seychelles considers that MoP13 is well placed to adopt a structured and operational approach to Article 13, without reopening or amending the Agreement, and in a manner that supports effective participation by SIDS while strengthening SIOFA's overall scientific and management outcomes.

Rationale for MoP13 action

8. Seychelles is bringing this proposal to MoP13 because Article 13 reflects an agreed commitment within SIOFA that requires a practical pathway for implementation. The proposal therefore does not seek to create a new obligation; it seeks to make an existing commitment more operational and more usable.
9. For SIDS and developing SIOFA Contracting Parties, participation in SIOFA work can be constrained by limited technical staff, travel budgets, scientific capacity, data systems and reporting resources. If these practical constraints are not addressed, SIDS may find it difficult to participate fully in scientific, compliance and management processes, even where they have direct interests in SIOFA fisheries and ecosystems.

MoP-13-31 - Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

10. A structured Article 13 process would help the MoP identify support needs in a transparent manner, match those needs with available capacity-building opportunities, and review whether support is improving participation and implementation over time.

11. Operationalising Article 13 would also benefit SIOFA as a whole by strengthening the quality of data, improving compliance with reporting obligations, widening participation in decision-making, and ensuring that conservation and management measures are both scientifically robust and practically implementable.

12. The proposal is intended to facilitate the practical implementation of Article 13 through improved coordination, identification of support needs, reporting, and access to relevant regional and international capacity-building opportunities, subject to available resources and any further decisions of the Meeting of the Parties.

Proposal

Seychelles proposes that the MoP adopt a decision to operationalise Article 13 through clearer mechanisms and guidance, including the following elements:

1. Recognition of Article 13 as an operational commitment

The MoP should reaffirm that Article 13 is not solely a contextual provision, but an agreed commitment that should inform practical action to support meaningful participation and effective implementation by eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA CCPartnership Parties.

2. Identification of priority support areas

- participation of eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA CCPartnership Parties in MoP and subsidiary body meetings, including through measures that facilitate effective engagement where feasible;
- scientific capacity building, including participation in research activities, scientific meetings and working groups;
- development and maintenance of fisheries data collection, management and reporting systems; and
- support for compliance with reporting and data standards in a manner consistent with national capacities.

3. Simple implementation process

To address the need for greater operational clarity, Seychelles proposes the following simple and practical process. The process is intended to be light, voluntary and resource-sensitive, while providing a clear pathway for identifying needs, coordinating support and reviewing progress.

Step	Purpose	Practical action
1. Identify needs	Allow eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA <u>CCPartnership Parties</u> to clearly state their practical Article 13 support needs.	Eligible Parties may submit a short needs note to the Secretariat before relevant MoP, Scientific Committee, Compliance Committee or working group meetings, using <u>an existing or newly developed template made available by the Secretariat on the SIOFA website</u> — simple template where appropriate.
2. Compile and map needs	Provide the MoP and relevant bodies with a clear overview of common needs and gaps.	The Secretariat, subject to available resources, may compile submitted needs and map them against relevant SIOFA workstreams, reporting obligations and available capacity-building opportunities.
3. Coordinate support	Avoid fragmented discussions and connect needs with realistic forms of support.	The Secretariat may facilitate links with relevant SIOFA bodies, technical experts, regional initiatives and

MoP-13-31 - Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

		international partners, without creating an automatic funding entitlement.
4. Integrate into workstreams	Ensure that Article 13 is considered when SIOFA develops or implements scientific, data, compliance and management measures.	Relevant SIOFA bodies should, where appropriate, take identified needs into account when planning work, developing guidance or considering implementation timelines.
5. Review and report	Create accountability and allow the process to improve over time.	The Secretariat should report periodically to the MoP on needs identified, support facilitated, progress made, remaining gaps and any further guidance required from the MoP.

4. Role of the Secretariat

- work, within existing mandates and subject to available resources, with eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA [CCPontracting Parties](#) to identify practical Article 13 support needs;
- facilitate access to relevant capacity-building opportunities, where appropriate, including through existing regional or international initiatives; and
- report periodically to the MoP on Article 13-related activities undertaken, lessons learned, remaining gaps, and any further issues requiring guidance from the MoP.

5. Integration with other SIOFA workstreams

Article 13 considerations should be taken into account, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of scientific frameworks, management procedures, conservation and management measures, data standards, and compliance processes, in order to ensure they are both scientifically robust and operationally feasible for eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA [CCPontracting Parties](#).

6. Future review

The MoP should review progress on the operationalisation of Article 13 at a future session, with a view to refining mechanisms and support arrangements as necessary.

Expected outcome

Adoption of this proposal would:

- support the practical implementation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement;
- improve the ability of eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA [CCPontracting Parties](#) to participate effectively in SIOFA processes;
- provide a clear process for identifying needs, coordinating support and reviewing progress;
- strengthen capacity in science, data collection, reporting, compliance and implementation;
- promote more consistent consideration of Article 13 across relevant SIOFA workstreams; and
- enhance the effectiveness, fairness and inclusiveness of SIOFA decision-making.

Annex 1

MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

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

RECALLING Article 2 of the Agreement, which provides that the objectives of the Agreement include ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the Area and promoting the sustainable development of fisheries in the Area, taking into account the needs of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States;

RECALLING FURTHER Article 4(g) of the Agreement, which provides that the special requirements of developing States bordering the Area that are Contracting Parties, and in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States, shall be given full recognition;

RECALLING ALSO Article 13 of the Agreement on the special requirements of developing States;

MINDFUL OF the vulnerability of developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States, that are dependent on the exploitation of fishery resources;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by the Meeting of the Parties do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States bordering the Area, in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that effective participation by eligible developing States in the Meeting of the Parties, subsidiary bodies, scientific work, compliance processes and implementation of SIOFA obligations contributes to the effectiveness and legitimacy of SIOFA;

NOTING that Article 13 contemplates cooperation and assistance including financial assistance, human resources development, technical assistance, transfer of technology, improved data collection and reporting, scientific research, monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement, observer programmes, access to technology and participation in SIOFA meetings;

ACKNOWLEDGING discussions held at SC11 regarding the practical implementation of Article 13;

DESIRING to establish a structured, transparent and resource-sensitive process to support the practical operationalisation of Article 13 ~~without amending the Agreement or creating an open-ended funding mechanism;~~

AGREES that:

1. Article 13 should continue to be considered within relevant SIOFA processes, as appropriate, including general consideration of the special requirements of SIDS participating within SIOFA;
2. priority support areas may include participation in MoP and subsidiary body meetings, scientific and technical capacity building, fisheries data collection and reporting systems, and support for the implementation of reporting obligations;
3. a simple implementation process should be used to support the practical operationalisation of Article 13, including: (a) voluntary identification of practical support needs by eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA ~~CC~~Contracting Parties; (b) compilation and mapping of needs by the Secretariat, subject to available resources; (c) facilitation of access to relevant capacity-building opportunities; (d) consideration of identified needs by relevant SIOFA bodies; and (e) periodic reporting and review by the MoP;
4. the Secretariat is requested, subject to available resources, to engage with eligible SIDS and developing SIOFA ~~CC~~Contracting Parties regarding practical Article 13 support needs, facilitate access to relevant regional and international capacity-building opportunities where appropriate, and report periodically to the MoP on Article 13-related needs, activities, progress, gaps and any further issues requiring guidance;

MoP-13-31 - Proposal for a MoP Decision on the Practical Operationalisation of Article 13 of the SIOFA Agreement

5. relevant SIOFA bodies should take Article 13 considerations into account, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of scientific frameworks, management procedures, conservation and management measures, data standards, compliance processes and implementation timelines, while maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of SIOFA obligations and measures;
6. this decision does not amend the Agreement, alter the obligations of CCPs under the Agreement or measures, create an automatic entitlement to funding, or establish an open-ended funding mechanism, and shall be implemented subject to available resources and any further decisions of the MoP; and
7. the MoP should review progress on the operationalisation of Article 13 at a future session, with a view to refining mechanisms and support arrangements as necessary.

SIOFA Performance Review Recommendations

Introduction

In 2023, SIOFA conducted its first Performance Review, resulting in a report containing 49 recommendations. Following its publication, the Scientific Committee convened an extraordinary meeting (SC-EXTRA1) to consider the findings and formulate recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, including a proposed implementation timeline.

At its 11th annual meeting, the Meeting of the Parties endorsed the Performance Review report and the majority of its recommendations, formally launching the implementation phase. Since then, the Scientific Committee, the Compliance Committee, and the Meeting of the Parties have worked alongside the Secretariat to advance implementation, with each body reporting progress at its annual meeting.

During the 12th Meeting of the Parties, The MoP agreed to simplify and improve the process for reviewing the implementation of SIOFA Performance Review recommendations.

This document integrates inputs from SC11 and provides an updated status of all recommendations.

Method

This document presents the updated implementation status of all SIOFA Performance Review recommendations.

Recommendations are organised by implementing body (the Meeting of the Parties, the Compliance Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Secretariat). Where a recommendation involves multiple bodies, it appears under the MoP section.

Its structure has been modified in accordance with paragraph 383(d) of MoP12 Report, which agreed to streamline the process for reviewing recommendation implementation going forward. In accordance with the MoP12 decision, within each section recommendations are ordered as follows:

- Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period
- Recommendations adopted by the MoP and completed
- Recommendations not adopted by the MoP

In addition, the document also includes an additional sub-section titled “Recommendations for which implementation has not yet started or has been stopped”.

Within each group, recommendations are listed sequentially by their original recommendation number to facilitate cross-referencing with the Performance Review report.

A “traffic light” colour system is used in this table to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks assigned to the different SIOFA implementing body. The following table provides an explanation of the colour coding system:

Recommendation not yet addressed by the implementing body	
Recommendation with ongoing actions from the implementing body	
Recommendation completed by the implementing body	

Contents

Introduction	3
Method	3
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the MoP	5
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	5
2. Recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been stopped	10
3. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	12
4. Recommendations that the MoP has not adopted	17
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the CC.....	19
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	19
2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	20
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the SC.....	22
1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period	22
2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	25
SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the Secretariat	27
1. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed	27
Conclusion.....	28

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the MoP

This section covers recommendations for which the MoP has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into four sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period, (2) recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been discontinued, (3) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed, and (4) recommendations not adopted by the MoP. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

No	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
11	The Panel recommends SIOFA discusses with CCAMLR concrete options to co-manage toothfish stocks shared between the 2 organisations and establishes either a prohibition of fishing for this resource outside established toothfish management units or revised the units as required so no activities escape the conservation measures established for this resource.	H	42. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 11 and noted that it is consistent with its discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 143–155, SC8 Report). 43. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 11.	H	MoP	ongoing	The management of toothfish in South Indian Ridge (SIR) area is going ahead with a proposal of a catch limit of 66.7t. Currently there is not a formal co-management stock of toothfish, but it has been recommended to the Secretariat to develop a method paper detailing the calculation of the trend analysis rule catch limits, based on CCAMLR paper WG-FSA-2025/01 and the interpretation used by SIOFA in applying these rules to SIOFA toothfish stocks. This document will be submitted to SC12 for review.
13	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs adopt precautionary measures for target stocks other than the three key stocks of toothfish, orange roughy and alfoncino.	H/M	46. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 13 and noted that it had discussed and recommended interim Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for the key SIOFA stocks (paragraph 178, SC8 Report). 47. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorsed recommendation 13	H/M	SC / MoP	ongoing	Note the development of harvest strategies for key stocks and note the ERA and proposed updates for future meetings (SC workplan). Note the work on CPUE for oilfish and escolar. Note the catch limits on species not otherwise assessed based on the average catch of a reference period already adopted by the MoP.

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
14	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussions towards a future regime for the allocation of fishing rights.	L			MoP endorsed recommendation 14	L	MoP	5 years	An “interim” framework for allocating fishing rights in SIOFA fisheries, giving the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) criteria for distributing participation rights to Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CCPs) has been proposed during MoP12 by CKI. This framework would apply only until harvest strategies with quota allocation mechanisms are formally adopted for specific SIOFA fisheries. Its aim is to provide fair, transparent, sustainable, and effective criteria for allocating fishing participation rights in line with the SIOFA Agreement and for fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The discussions are always in progress and the MoP, during MoP12, agreed to continue to discuss this matter at MoP13.
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
19	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to agree urgently on measures to reduce shark by-catches, in particular by implementing any mitigation measures that identified as effective by the 2023 specific workshop on sharks to take place under the aegis of the Scientific Committee, including precautionary catch limits for Portuguese dogfish. Recommendation nr 2 on the assessment of the status of shark stocks is also relevant for the issues discussed under this criterion.	H	56. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 19 and noted that it held extensive discussions on measures to reduce shark by-catch measures at SC8, including the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area and the SC recommendations to the MoP (paragraphs 225–257, SC8 Report). 57. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 19	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years (work ongoing)	Note the projects in the SC workplan and discussions in the SC11 report

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
26	The Panel recommends and encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue their efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS in order to verify vessels activity in the Agreement Area. The Panel also recommends that CCPs adopt rules for the submission VMS data until such scheme is adopted.	H/M	62. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the SC noted that the sharing of VMS data with the SC could be useful for enabling the verification fishing location data for its data checking procedures.	90. Regarding Recommendation Nr 26, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to continue efforts to agree on a SIOFA VMS and noted that this work is ongoing. 91. One CCP suggested that Recommendation Nr 26 should be assigned a priority of 'H' rather than 'H/M'. 92. Another CCP suggested that the second recommendation, to adopt rules for the submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon.	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the statements of some CCPs that the rule of submission of VMS data, should only be considered if and when a SIOFA VMS is agreed upon	H	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (ongoing)	Since MoP12, significant progress has been made in relation to the SIOFA VMS, including the procurement of the SIOFA VMS system and the implementation of a pilot phase prior to the system's entry into operation. See Paper CC-10-10.
27	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently seek to clarify the various issues of interpretation affecting the implementation of several MCS measures, in particular those related to CMM 06 on the IUU vessel list, CMM 07 on Vessel authorisation and CMM 14 on the HSBI procedures, including by seeking independent legal or technical advice if necessary.	H		93. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 27.	MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that there may not be a need to seek independent legal or tech advice	M	SC CC MoP	ongoing (3 - 5 years)	CMMs are regularly reviewed by the MoP and its subsidiary bodies. CMM 06 was reviewed in 2024. CMM 07 was reviewed in 2025.
--	With regard to SIOFA's observer programme, and in general with regard to possible technical improvements for the standing measures, Recommendation nr 9 on a corpus of SIOFA CMMs applies also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion								

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
31	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to assess the capacity building needed in order to improve implementation of their obligations by the CCPs, prioritizing the most urgent and providing options to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to CCPs which so require.	M	63. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that it should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 6. 64. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.	97. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 31 and noted that the identification of capacity gaps is an essential part of an effective CMS.	MoP endorses this recommendation. And notes that capacity building was already discussed	H	Secretariat CC SC MoP	1 - 3 years	CC8 recognized the need for capacity building within CCPs' delegations, which in part could be addressed by the workshop on the usage of the new CCR template. During the inter-sessional period between MoP12 and MoP13, the Secretariat conducted a second round of consultations regarding capacity building options for developing CCPs. The results are presented to CC10 through paper CC-10-07 and to MoP13 through paper MoP-13-07. Capacity-building options were also presented to SC11, see paper SC-11-23.
38	The Panel encourages SIOFA CCPs to continue and if needed intensify dialogue on matters of concern to different CCPs, where consensus has not been achieved in order to find a common view which can be satisfactory to all CCPs. In particular, the Panel recommends to address bottom fishing activities in the Saya de Malha Bank, the scope of boarding and inspection procedures under CMM 14 and the issue of managing overlapping obligations for vessels arising from both SIOFA and neighbouring RFMOs, in particular the IOTC.	M			MoP endorses the recommendation	M	MoP	ongoing	MoP11 notes that the issue of bottom fishing on Saya De Malha has been discussed at several MoPs without an agreed way forward. Regarding the overlapping area of SIOFA and IOTC, the parties have been working on establishing a formal cooperation framework and are already cooperating on several matters (data, IUU fishing).
42	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening cooperation with the IOTC, SWIOFC, SEAFO, SPRFMO, and CCSBT, as appropriate.	H	72. Regarding Recommendation Nr 42, the SC noted that for some stocks in some areas, the scientific information and methods applied by these regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) may be relevant to SIOFA and cooperation with them would be beneficial.		MoP endorses this recommendation, the MoP notes that cooperation with CCAMLR and other bodies (eg FAO) is also necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat has been working intersessionally to formalise cooperation between SIOFA and IOTC. However, as IOTC lacks independent legal personality and its Executive Secretary has no delegated authority from the FAO Director-General to sign formal instruments, cooperation is currently developing on an informal basis.

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
									The Secretariat participates in meetings remotely or in-person of neighbouring RFMOs and CCAMLR to the extent possible. Updates on the results of those participations are detailed in MoP-13-01 (Secretariat activities).
44	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider setting up a section on the SIOFA website dedicated to SIOFA's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement, presenting the assistance that may be provided individually or collectively by CCPs to meet the special requirement of CCP developing States including, in particular, the least developed among them, and small island developing States.	M	73. Regarding Recommendation Nr 44, the SC noted that it could be tasked with capacity building in scientific areas. The SC noted that the FAO DSF Project may also share objectives that are aligned with this recommendation.		MoP endorsed this recommendation, and notes the comments provided by the SC	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	3 years	The Secretariat has included a dedicated section on the website dedicated to the implementation of Article 13 (https://siofa.org/about/developing-states) This section could also be used to include the capacity building action plan, if it is agreed by the MoP (see papers MoP-13-07 and CC-10-07).
45	The Panel Recommends that SIOFA CCPs agree on a periodical review by the MoP of the organisation's implementation of Article 13 of the Agreement and encourage CCP developing States to proactively express their needs, challenges and special requirements affecting their contribution to SIOFA's work. The MoP may thereafter consider establishing a fund dedicated to these purposes or expanding the scope of the current one.	M/L			MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that CCPs should report issues in regard to the implementation of article 13	L	MoP	ongoing	Some financial support is provided to developing CCPs under Article 13 of the Agreement for attendance to SIOFA meetings No specific support from SIOFA is provided to developing States bordering the Area that are not CCPs unless they express the intention to join SIOFA in the coming year as CCP. The MoP has established a standing agenda item relevant to Article 13 and tasked the Secretariat to provide a paper on this topic at its ordinary meetings. A paper on the implementation of Article 13 and the existing mechanisms is presented to the CC10 and the MoP13 through the documents CC-10-13 and MoP-13-13, respectively. These papers include the second round of consultation conducted by the Secretariat on options for developing CCPs' capacity building, thereby continuing to hone an up to date and

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
									precise understanding of developing CCPs' capacity building needs.
--	Recommendations nr 6, 31 and 34 on various areas where capacity building assistance could be provided by SIOFA also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							

2. Recommendations for which implementation has not started or has been stopped

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
21	The Panel recommends SIOFA carries out a review of the effect of effort limits applicable to relevant fleets to determine whether such limits constrain the fishing activity or not, and that a clear determination is made on the potential use of capacity or effort limits as a fishery management tool, especially with regard to fisheries conducted with gears other than bottom gears.	M	60. The SC noted Recommendation Nr 21 and that it could conduct the relevant analyses if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 21	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This recommendation will be considered within the ongoing work on the Precautionary Approach Framework and Harvest Strategies

23	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the adoption of binding application of the Port Inspection Scheme to all ports of every CCPs, without the condition to apply to those having areas of national jurisdiction adjacent to the Agreement Area.	H/M		84. Regarding Recommendation Nr 23, the Compliance Committee expressed its general support for reviewing the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme. 85. One CCP supported expanding the scope of the Port Inspection Scheme but not to "all ports of every CCP" as stated in the Panel's recommendation, and cautioned that any potential amendment to the current scheme should be carefully considered to avoid adding unnecessary burden on ports not adjacent to the Agreement Area. 86. Australia expressed its intention to prepare a proposal to amend CMM 2020/08 (Port Inspection), based on Recommendation Nr 23 and the views expressed by CCPs, with the aim to present this proposal at CC8.	MoP agrees to review the scope of the PI scheme, and noted the recommendations by the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (stopped)	Australia conducted intersessional work, collecting CCPs views, and no consensus was reached on a way forward. The MoP during MoP12 agreed to not progress this work at this time.
24	The Panel recommends SIOFA adopts at least a minimum standard regarding inspection coverage of all fishing vessels carrying or landing resources of its competence which enter their ports.	H		87. Australia expressed its intention to consider Recommendation Nr 24 when preparing its aforementioned proposal to amend CMM 2020/08.	MoP agrees to consider minimum standards for PI coverage and noted the recommendations from the CC	M	CC and MoP	1 - 3 years (stopped)	Australia conducted intersessional work, collecting CCPs views, and no consensus was reached on a way forward. The MoP agreed to not progress this work at this time.
25	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, and if this is found to happen, initiate demarches with the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate.	H		88. The Compliance Committee expressed its general support for Recommendation Nr 25. Some CCPs had different interpretations of the definition of "demarches" but agreed that, if possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species are found to have occurred at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs, the Secretariat should	MoP endorses the recommendation, noting the comments of the CC	M/L	Secretariat at CC MoP	3 - 5 years	The Secretariat sends annual invitations to coastal states to join the Agreement as CP or CNCP. The Secretariat reviews the inspections reports that are provided by other parties. CC recommends that the Secretariat widens the scope of information it collects to conduct this analysis, including information already available from other organisations (e.g. FAO statistics)

				contact the relevant port States to request they become CCPs or cooperate with SIOFA as appropriate. 89. The Chairperson of the Review Panel clarified that the key element of the investigation is the need to investigate possible landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports placed under the jurisdiction of non-CCPs.					[The 8th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC08) requested the Secretariat to broaden the range of data sources used in the analysis of potential landings or transshipments of SIOFA species at ports under the jurisdiction of non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (non-CCPs)—including data held by external organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—To this end, the Secretariat undertook consultations with the FAO as well as several relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite these efforts, no suitable or verifiable port landing data were made available to the Secretariat during the reporting period. As a result, it was not possible to complete the analysis as requested by CC08.]
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

3. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation №	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
5	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs finalise the protocol on VME and protected area designation and speed up the process of progressing the agreed protected areas from their interim nature and identify any further areas in need for protection.	H/M	22. Regarding Recommendation Nr 5, the SC endorsed the recommendation and noted that related work is underway as part of the “PAE2022-MPA1 Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs” EU funded project, which focuses on the designation and assessment of marine protected areas, and whose outcomes are expected to be delivered at the end of 2023. 23. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M	SC MoP	1 - 3 Years	Completed, see SC10 Report on revised protocol and proposed BPAs

15	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a definition of new fisheries and discuss a regulatory framework for new and exploratory fisheries incorporating the highest standards derived from international best practices. The framework should make proper use of tools already developed by SIOFA such as the fishing footprint, BFIAAs and VME mapping.	H/M	48. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 15 and noted that there had been previous work on this matter, although not in recent years. The SC noted that it had recommended an updated bottom fishing footprint to the MoP and recommended that the MoP consider the implications of the bottom fishing footprint once it is agreed, including how new fishing should be considered (paragraphs 95 and 277, SC8 Report). 49. The SC endorsed the high/medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses recommendation 15 Work in ongoing	H/M	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	Completed. A new CMM has been adopted MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).
--	Recommendations nr 10, 12 and 13, above on the implementation of the Precautionary approach apply also for the purposes of the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
16	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to make every effort to progress from the current interim arrangements for bottom fishing to permanent rules, retaking discussions on this issue from the proposal tabled in 2019 or an updated version of it. Recommendation nr 9 above, on a corpus of SIOFA rules, applies also for the purposes of the issues at stake here.	H	50. The SC noted that, with the provision of BFIAAs in the past years and of an updated footprint presented this year, the MoP could decide to move towards a more permanent management of bottom fishing. 51. The SC also noted its recommendation to the MoP noting that new fishing would need to be considered when the bottom fishing footprint is agreed (paragraph 95, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses recommendation 16 Work in ongoing	H	SC and MoP	1 - 3 years	MoP11 noted that SC9 provided some details on how to address new and exploratory fisheries. By adopting the bottom fishing footprint many provisions in the CMM 01 should not be interim anymore. A new CMM has been adopted by MoP11 (CMM 17 (2024)).
20	The Panel recommends the SC effectively use the focused agenda item on seabird by-catch, decided by SC 8 in 2023 for future sessions, to identify necessary by-catch mitigation measures, including in trawl fisheries, as originally proposed at the time CMM 13 was adopted.	M/L	58. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 20 and noted that it plans to hold a focused agenda item on seabird data collection and bycatch mitigation measures at SC9 (paragraphs 265 and 268, SC8 Report). 59. The SC endorsed the		MoP endorses recommendation 20	M	SC and MoP	3 - 5 years	This is now a standing item of the SC agenda. Work has substantially progressed during SC10.

	SIOFA's cooperation arrangements with ACAP, but also with CCAMLR, should be strengthened including for the purposes of this work.		medium/low priority assigned to this recommendation.						
22	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider incorporating the principles of a flag State performance self-assessment into their compliance monitoring scheme, including by tasking the CC with reviewing the annual national reports submitted by CCPs and currently reviewed only by the SC.	H/M	61. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the SC noted that it reviews CCPs' annual national reports to obtain the most recent information fisheries data and to identify any potential new trends or scientifically relevant issues.	83. Regarding Recommendation Nr 22, the Compliance Committee noted that flag State performance self-assessment is already part of the CMS, and that the Secretariat identifies any potential compliance issues from the annual national reports and replies to compliance questionnaire and presents these to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.	MoP endorses the recommendation and notes the comments of the CC and the SC that such assessments are already performed.	M	SC CC MoP	1 - 5 years (and ongoing)	Annual reports are reviewed annually at SC. The SIOFA CMS captures this recommendation
29	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree on a review of CMM 11 on a Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to facilitate its interpretation, taking into account the changes proposed by this Panel, including to the CCR template and the rules regarding follow up action on infringements identified in previous years.	H/M		95. The Compliance Committee noted Recommendation Nr 29 and that the review of CMM 2020/11 (Compliance Monitoring Scheme) is part of its ongoing work. The Compliance Committee agreed to consider the Review Panel's views as part of its CMS review process.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and notes that work is on-going.	H/M	CC MoP	1-3 years	An Informal Workshop on the SIOFA CCR Template (CCRTW) was successfully completed in March 2025. Furthermore, the Secretariat developed the "Guidelines for Completing the New SIOFA CCPs Compliance Report Template" which complemented the workshop and is available to CCPs when completing their CCR
32	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss the possible adoption of a new measure on a Catch Documentation Scheme, focusing, in particular, on CCAMLR's DCD, and explore options for its implementation. The Panel recommends SIOFA strengthens its cooperation with CCAMLR in this regard, including by requesting	H/M		98. The Compliance Committee noted that Recommendation Nr 32 pertains to a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish, noted that all SIOFA CCPs fishing for toothfish are Members of CCAMLR, where there is already a CDS for toothfish, and are thus already required to document catches of	MoP agrees with the recommendation made by the CC, and noted that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR	H	SC, CC and MoP	Completed	Collaboration with CCAMLR is ongoing under the SIOFA-CCAMLR Arrangement. As it is not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, as the toothfish SIOFA area are covered by CCAMLR process, this recommendation may be considered as completed

	capacity building support for the Secretariat so that it can contribute to future joint work by the two organisations.			toothfish in the SIOFA Area, and agreed that it is therefore not necessary to establish a SIOFA CDS for toothfish, rather, it is adequate to continue its ongoing cooperation with CCAMLR.					
37	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider strengthening the use of intersessional decision procedures or inter-sessional working groups to facilitate the work of SIOFA as appropriate, in order to focus MoP discussions and make better use of the time available.	M/L	70. Regarding Recommendation Nr 37, the SC noted that it has trialled and recommended the continuation of a new combined SC meeting format, supplemented by workshops and focused agenda items (paragraph 337, SC8 Report).		MoP endorses the recommendation, and notes that Inter-Sessional decision process should be used only when exceptional	M / L	MoP	1-5 years	Intersessional works have been done frequently through Workshops organised by the Secretariat for the Scientific Committee or for the Compliance Committee. It has not been necessary to use Intersessional Decision as soon as the decision to be taken by the MoP are early anticipated. The use of Intersessional Decision keeps useful to take intersessional decisions on matters of procedure or exceptionally on matter of substance.
39	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs continue to review, clarify and amend as appropriate the relevant data rules or provisions so that all CCPs as well as observers and the general public have better access to data and information for the purpose of discussion and decision-making.	M	71. The SC noted that it has held discussions on rules of data access and dissemination at SC8 (paragraphs 96–108 and 114–119 and Annex E, SC8 Report) and that the development of standardised reports such as fisheries summaries and ecosystem reports should also facilitate better access to data and information.		MoP endorses this recommendation, and notes that this work is ongoing	M	SC, CC and MoP	ongoing	Public data access is governed by CMM 03. CMM 03 is planned to be revised at CC9 and MoP12 (ref paper CC-09-19 and MoP-12-35) Work has been done to improve the access to the RAV information, with the addition of vessels details pages. Note the update to CMM 03 in 2025 which enlarge the scope of public data (para 2 b ii).
41	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs engage in discussion on the rules, standards and procedures regarding the granting of CNCP status, including the clarification of the requirements for admission or CNCPs status renewal, in order to ensure a consistent reviewing approach. The adoption of clear rules as well as an application template is also recommended, providing CNCP with general instructions on the required	M			MoP notes that the procedure for becoming CNCP is in the SIOFA RoP, and notes that further discussion would continue if necessary.	L	Secretariat MoP	Ongoing	To date, the MoP assesses the CNCP status at its annual meetings. The SIOFA RoP are currently used for this task. MoP recommends that CNCPs attend to the Compliance Committee meetings.

	information, actions, and any other criterion.								
--	Recommendations nr 11, 20 and 32 on the strengthening of cooperation between SIOFA and CCAMLR also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
46	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs urgently agree on a strategic financial planning for the medium term taking into account the costs incurred over recent years for the funding of the Scientific Committee work, and commit to a fairer sharing of these costs, including by contributing in kind CCP scientific resources.	H/M	74. Regarding Recommendation Nr 46, the SC noted that strategic financial planning for the medium-term would allow the SC to plan and prioritize its work and that the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report) contributes to the achievement of this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H	CCPs MoP	1 - 3 years Completed	At its annual meeting, the MoP adopts the budget for the coming year and considers the forecast budget for at least one additional year. The SC has extended its workplan and associated budget to cover a 3 year timeframe. Furthermore the Reserve Fund is strengthened each year and will allow to face to any unpredictable expense
47	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs discuss in depth the strategic plan presented by the Executive Secretary in 2022 but extend their discussions not just to the funding aspects of it, but also to its role. For this purpose, an analysis should be carried out of the Secretariat's degree of autonomy to identify areas where it could be allowed to operate in a more agile way.	M	75. Regarding Recommendation Nr 47, the SC noted that the creation of the Science Officer position and the appointment of Dr Marco Milardi has greatly enhanced the ability of the SC to advance its work programme.		MoP endorses this recommendation, MoP notes that is it part of an ongoing process, and notes that the addition of one SO and one CO enhanced the capacity of the Secretariat	M	SC, CC, MoP Secretariat	Completed	Note the SC workplan CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The role of the Secretariat is determined by the MoP, and the SIOFA RoP. The RoP relevant to the Secretariat have not changed.
48	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs work towards a clear agreement on the use of consultants – or not – for the offices of subsidiary body chairpersons. Were the decision taken to continue using the current contractual arrangements a robust evaluation of the workload and appropriate funding should be agreed, in order to ensure these offices can be	H	76. Regarding Recommendation Nr 48, the SC noted the decisions by the MoP to appoint Mr Alistair Dunn as an independent SC Chair and to extend his term, as well as SC8's recommendation that his term be further extended for two years (paragraphs 361–363, SC8 Report). 77. The SC had no advice regarding Recommendations Nrs 14, 23–25, 27–30, 32, 36, 38, 40–41, 43, 45, and 49.		MoP has so far agreed to this arrangement, and also notes that further discussion on the workload and appropriate funding is necessary.	H	SC, CC, MoP	Completed	CC8 notes that this recommendation is more relevant to the MoP. The SIOFA budget provides defined funding for the use of external consultants. A specific process is in place for the selection of the consultants and for the assessment of their work through a review panel

	effectively and efficiently discharged.								
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. Recommendations that the MoP has not adopted

Nº	Performance Review Recommendations	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
7	The Panel recommends either the deadlines for data submission under relevant CMMs or the schedule of the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee be revised to ensure the SC has the most recent data available ahead of its annual meeting.	H	27. Regarding Recommendation Nr 7, the SC noted that it had discussed this issue and reached the conclusion that: a. the current data submission deadline is the only feasible deadline for CCPs, as it comes after the end of the fishing season and that obtaining, entering and checking the data before submission to SIOFA would not be possible at an earlier date. The SIOFA Secretariat noted that, once received, these data are entered into the SIOFA databases, checked and validated, and that final versions of these data are only available for analysis around September, which would be after the MoP. b. rescheduling of the SC to a later date would therefore also not be a feasible option, as there would not likely be enough time to hold the MoP meeting within the same year. 28. The SC noted that it had previously discussed and requested the MoP to consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to submit data on a more frequent basis (e.g., monthly or quarterly		MoP agrees with the concerns expressed by SC. MoP does not endorse this recommendation. The MoP would however consider mechanisms to enable CCPs to provide data on a more frequent basis.				N/A

			reporting) where CCPs were able to (paragraph 64, SC7 Report). 29. The SC noted that the annual national reports provide a mechanism for the SC to have a summary of the most recent data and “could be used to support more informed discussions at the SC meeting” (SC8 para 52). The SC further noted that when conducting stock assessments on long-lived fish, the long-term trend is more important than the terminal year, and not being able to use the most recent data in a stock assessment is therefore not a major issue. 30. The SC recommended that the MoP note that it disagreed with Recommendation Nr 7.						
--	Recommendation Nr 34 on the implementation of reporting requirements, specifically on the development of an IT-platform for the management of data and information submissions also apply to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							See recommendation 34
12	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs to urgently agree on precautionary measures regarding alfonsino in light of the significant level of catches, second in the Area by weight, and of the fact that the stocks’ biological complexity makes it challenging to adopt measures other than precautionary, at least in the short-to-medium term. Effort and catches should be constrained to the lowest possible levels.	H	44. The SC disagreed with Recommendation Nr 12 and recommended that the MoP note that this recommendation was inconsistent with the previous alfonsino stock assessment advice (SC-05-29 Age-Structured Production Model assessments of the Alfonsino, and summarised in paragraphs 116–119 of the SC5 Report) and with the CPUE analyses conducted at SC8 (paragraph 130 and Figure 1, SC8 Report), which indicated that “the stock is fluctuating without trend in recent years”. 45. The SC noted that it discussed planned and ongoing		MoP does not endorse Recommendation 12. MoP noted the lack of management measures for Alfonsino, and requests SC9 to propose potential management measures for Alfonsino				N/A

			alfonsino-related scientific work at SC8 (paragraphs 131–140, SC8 Report).						
43	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs include a prerequisite in their consideration of CMM new or amended proposals the review of relevant measures adopted by neighbouring international organizations in order to promote a coherent approach and compatibility of fisheries management across RFMO boundaries.	M			MoP does not endorse the recommendation, and notes that SIOFA should develop its measures independently, especially if they are more effective than those of other RFMOs.				N/A
49	The Panel recommends that the term of office of the MoP Chairperson be extended to 2 years at least, to ensure continuity in proceedings.	M/L			The MoP notes this recommendation, and notes that further discussions are planned during the MoP10.				Not considered yet

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the CC

This section covers recommendations for which the CC has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into different sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period and (2) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
17	The Panel recommends the MoP requests from the SC an evaluation of the frequency of VME encounters and of the compliance of fishing	H	52. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 17. 53. The SC recommended that the MoP consider this recommendation in conjunction with the		MoP endorses recommendation 17	H	CC and SC	1 - 3 years	See the SC workplan and the SC VME focused session at SC in 2025. CC08 noted that this work is ongoing.

	vessels with the reporting and move-on rule requirements.		outcomes of the VME workshop (paper SC-08-25), the analysis of available VME indicator taxa accidental captures data from the Observer and CatchEffort databases and their usability for setting VME encounter thresholds (paper SC-08-26) presented by the Secretariat at SC8, and the related discussions at SC8 (paragraphs 290-292, SC8 Report). 54. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						Note the revised guidelines for annual national reports 2025 recommending higher resolution of VME incidental captures reporting.
--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	---

2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
9	The Panel recommends CCPs to launch an exercise of consolidation of the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations, with the aim of codifying the applicable rules to make them clearer, easier to interpret and easier to control in terms of compliance. This exercise should identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, issues of interpretation in need of resolving, and a future structure of the corpus that allows the different actors on whom the various obligations fall (from SIOFA's own bodies, to CCP authorities, to fishers) to have a clear and user-friendly access to their	M	35. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the SC endorsed the need to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, but did not consider there to be a strong need to consolidate the various CMMs. 36. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation. 37. The SC recommended that the MoP consider changing the naming convention for the CMMs so that the CMM number precedes the year the CMM was updated, e.g., CMM 2020-01 would become CMM 01-2020.	82. Regarding Recommendation Nr 9, the Compliance Committee endorsed the recommendation to identify existing gaps and possible contradictions, and issues of interpretation in need of resolving, while noting that this is part of the ongoing work of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee did not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMMs into a corpus of SIOFA rules and regulations.	MoP does not endorse the recommendation to consolidate the various CMM into a corpus of SIOFA measures. The MoP noted that the CC is continuously revising the CMM. MoP adopts the renaming convention of the CMM.	M	CC Secretariat /	Oct 2023 for CMMs renaming	Completed

	applicable rules and discipline.								
28	The Panel recommends including in the agenda of the Compliance Committee a specific standing item on follow-up actions in the framework of the CMS for the previous year or years.	H		94. The Compliance Committee endorsed Recommendation Nr 28 and noted that the review of follow-up actions is already part of its CMS framework.	MoP endorsed the recommendation, and noted the comments made by the CC.	H	CC	ongoing	The CC included a dedicated item on its annual agenda. A standing agenda item of the Compliance Committee
34	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of establishing an IT-based data management platform taking into account the experience gained in the design and use of such platforms in other organisations, including in-built protocols for data verification, quality checks and the protection of confidential data. A decision to explore this option should only be taken if CCPs accept and assume the need for investment on capacity building as required.	H	67. Regarding Recommendation Nr 34, the SC noted that it would welcome any systems and processes that would improve the quality of data and allow the SC to conduct verification and quality checks. 68. The SC further noted that it has discussed the protection of confidentiality of data in past SC meetings and that processes that would protect confidentiality would be in line with recommendations that the SC has made previously.		MoP endorses the recommendation. And request the Secretariat to prepare a paper describing implementation possibilities (to SC and MoP)	H	Secretariat, SC, CC	1 - 3 years	The Secretariat has an in-house IT-based platform for managing data, datasets (metadata), and the fisheries (C&E, observer, vessels) databases. This was not designed to have an interface from outside of the Secretariat. The Secretariat currently applies a range of data related procedures: data submission, data checks, data release and data backup. The Secretariat considers that no further actions is required.
36	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs agree to share data regarding the implementation of their fisheries control obligations and utilise such data in the framework of CMM 11's Compliance Monitoring Scheme in order to assess whether SIOFA's control-related measures are effectively implemented.	H/M		99. The Compliance Committee did not express any views regarding Recommendation Nr 36.	The MoP endorses the recommendation. The MoP noted that further work was necessary on the CMS process.	H/M	CC Secretariat	1 - 3 years	Partially implemented by the Compliance Assessment Process. The Secretariat circulated the the CCP Compliance Report(CCR) Template for the Compliance Assessment Period 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 via Circular 2026-03.

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the SC

This section covers recommendations for which the Scientific Committee has been identified as a lead or co-implementing body. A parallel version of this document was submitted to SC11 under reference SC-11-22. Per MoP12 recommendations, the section organised into different sub-sections: (1) recommendations on which progress has been made during the intersessional period and (2) recommendations adopted by the MoP and considered completed. Recommendations within each section are presented sequentially.

1. Recommendations on which progress has been made in the intersessional period

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
1	The Panel recommends that the SIOFA SC is tasked with conferring high priority to the improvement of stock assessments in order to reduce uncertainty as a necessary basis for the adoption of harvest strategies. This task should be subject to a target timeline and include a process for an independent peer review of assessment methods and results.	H	11. Regarding Recommendation Nr 1, the SC noted that it has made recommendations to the MoP on the development of harvest strategies and related data collection and stock assessment work at the Joint MoP-SC Harvest Strategies Workshop and at the SC8 meeting including the necessary steps and timelines for the stock assessments of the key SIOFA stocks. 12. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 1 in conjunction with paragraphs 166–197 and Annex F (Medium-Term SC8 Workplan) of the SC8 Report. 13. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 1 but recommended that the MoP note that it may be difficult to improve some stock assessments and reduce their uncertainty, because even though the catch and effort data collected are accurate, there may only be a limited amount of data available because of the small size of those fisheries. However, it is still possible to develop useful		MoP endorses recommendation 1 as commented by the SC in particular difficulties of improving SA and reducing uncertainty	H	SC	Ongoing, ref timeline recommended	See ORY, TOT, ALF projects in the SC workplan. Note the new (2024-2025) assessment of ORY (SC-10-40). Note new assessment of toothfish biomass (SC-11-17, 55, 57). Note the work done under the EU-funded SIOFA-PAM project. Note the work on ALF-2024-01

			harvest strategies based on stock assessments with a higher level of uncertainty, provided adequate management procedures are used to mitigate the risk and uncertainty. 14. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.						
2	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee with assessing the status of key shark stocks in the Area and that their status be kept under constant review over the coming years.	H	15. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 2 and noted that it has conducted discussions on assessing the status of key shark stocks in the SIOFA Area. 16. The SC recommended that the MoP consider Recommendation Nr 2 in conjunction with: a. the outcomes of the Intersessional Workshop on Deepwater Sharks in SIOFA Area, particularly the updated ecological risk assessment for deepwater chondrichthyan species (paper SC-08-29 Update on the ecological risk assessment of deepwater chondrichthyan species); b. paragraphs 224–257 of the SC8 Report, noting in particular the limited ability to conduct a stock assessment on shark species in the short-term, especially since the planned measures to reduce shark bycatch will result in less data being available; c. the shark-related scientific work in the Medium-Term SC8 Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 17. The SC endorsed the high priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP supports this recommendation, work is already ongoing. Key shark stocks for assessment to be defined by SC.	H	SC	Ongoing	Task considered, ref SC9 report. Future SC meeting will need to define “key shark” species. Note the update in the shark ERA (SC-10-49). Note the ongoing project DWS-2024-01.
3	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs ensure that the fisheries summaries developed by the Scientific Committee contain clear	M/L	18. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 3. The SC noted that stock status will be included in the fisheries summaries and will be		MoP endorses this recommendation, work is ongoing	M/L	SC Secretariat /	3 - 5 Years	See the fisheries summaries updated in 2026 (SC11 Report).

	information on the stock status of species caught in the SIOFA Area, and that this information is promptly made available to the general public.		reported to the MoP. The SC also noted that the fisheries summaries should be made available to the public (paragraph 129, SC8 Report) and that the continued development of the fisheries summaries is a priority in the Medium-Term SC Workplan (Annex F, SC8 Report). 19. The SC endorsed the medium/low priority assigned to the recommendation.						
6	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider capacity building activities for developing States to undertake BFIA as per the SIOFA standards.	M	24. The SC noted that Recommendation Nr 6 should be considered in conjunction with Recommendation Nr 31. 25. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 6 but recommended to the MoP that broader capacity building, particularly data capture, data quality, and data reporting, rather than specifically to BFIA, would be of greater use to developing States. 26. Regarding the priority assigned to this recommendation, the SC considered it to be of a low priority if it only pertained to BFIA, but a high/medium priority if it pertained to broader capacity building that included data capture, data quality, and data reporting.		MoP endorses this recommendation	H/M H on data capacity building	SC Secretariat /	1 - 3 years	The Observers’ harmonisation framework partially addresses the data capture and quality improvement (SEC2022-OBS1) The MoP tasked the Secretariat for developing a paper on options for facilitating and addressing Capacity Building needs of CCP development states for consideration at its next CC and MoP. The scope of the paper should encompass the broad range of areas as commented by the SC in relation to recommendation 6. See paper SC-10-24. Note the development of the BFIA Checklist. Note the Capacity building paper SC-11-23. Note the Capacity Building paper MoP-13-07.
18	The Panel recommends that SIOFA CCPs expand their consideration of actions aiming at the conservation of biodiversity to fishing activities other than those using bottom gears, extending the concept of Impact Assessment to such activities as well.	M	55. Regarding Recommendation Nr 18, the SC agreed that fishing activities other than those using bottom gears may affect biodiversity and noted that it could include such considerations in its workplan if requested by the MoP.		MoP endorses recommendation 18	M	SC	3 - 5 years	Note the new observer logbooks for squid fishing in CMM 02

33	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs consider the option of developing a SIOFA Reporting Manual to replace the present table of reporting requirements provided for in the organisation's website. Suggestions as to the structure and contents have been provided in our assessment under this criterion.	M	65. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 33 and supported improving communication around data collection, noting that the currently ongoing project on Harmonisation of Scientific Observer Programmes (Annex F, SC8 Report) would address some aspects of this recommendation. 66. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses the recommendation	M	Secretariat, CC, SC	3 years	Project SEC2022-OBS1 and the observer harmonisation workshops (WS2024-OBS and OBS2) have made recommendations for the consideration by SC10 on observer manuals and data reporting systems.
----	---	---	--	--	---------------------------------	---	---------------------	---------	---

2. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
4	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs assess the use of the VME Guide by observers and take action to ensure its use as required, and also implement awareness programmes targeting observers.	M	20. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 4 and noted that work is ongoing to make this information available on the SIOFA website and that the SC has discussed developing the VME Guide further with additional species. 21. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.		MoP endorses this recommendation	M	SC Secretariat for publication CCPs for implementation	3 - 5 Years	Note work on the SIOFA VME Classification Guide (SC-10-26). Publication has been made by the Secretariat on the website. https://siofa.org/sites/default/files/documents/cmm/SIOFA-VME-taxa-guide-2025.pdf
8	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Scientific Committee to develop a long-term strategic plan with identified priorities for its work and options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible, taking into account funding requirements.	M	31. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 8. 32. The SC recommended that the MoP note that the SC is prepared to develop a long-term strategic plan with guidance from the MoP, and that a medium term plan had been prepared at SC8 for consideration by the MoP. 33. The SC recommended that the MoP hold a broader discussion on options for the use of independent consultants, academic institutions, private/public		MoP encourages SC to develop a long-term strategic plan. Topic will also be addressed at MoP10 under agenda item XX	M	SC	3 years	Completed. Note the SC workplan with priorities developed for up to 5 years

			organisations and/or CCP expertise resources as feasible. 34. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation.						
--	Recommendations nr 7, 10 and 46 concerning, respectively, the scheduling of SC meetings, the development of a framework for Scientific Advice and the management of human and funding resources for its work apply also to the issues assessed under this criterion.	--							
10	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs undertake the development of a framework for the provision of Scientific Advice that takes into account best international practices, whether or not combined with a framework for decision-making at managerial level in accordance with the Precautionary Approach. This could accompany or complement the already decided work line dedicated to the development of harvest strategies but would provide the basis for an urgent consideration of precautionary measures in the short term.	M	38. The SC endorsed Recommendation Nr 10 and noted that, with the adoption of harvest strategies and defined management targets and risk thresholds, the SC would be able to develop more formal decision-making tools that would be useful for the MoP. 39. The SC endorsed the medium priority assigned to this recommendation. 40. The SC noted that the FAO DSF project is compiling information on how advice is requested and provided at different RFMOs as a way to share ideas and methods among RFMOs. 41. The SC noted that it would also be useful to develop a template or agreed language for framing stock assessment or ecological advice to the MoP.		MoP endorsed recommendation 10.	M	SC	1 - 3 years	Completed

SIOFA Performance Review Tasks for the Secretariat

This section covers recommendations for which the Secretariat has been identified as a lead implementing body.

1. Recommendations that have been adopted by the MoP and completed

Recommendation Number	Performance Review Recommendation	Review Panel Priority (H/M/L)	SC Recommendations (from SC-EXTRA1)	CC07 Recommendations	MoP10 Decision	MoP 10 Priority	Implementing Party(ies) / Body(ies)	Proposed Timeline at MoP10	Notes and Current Status
30	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat with an assignment as high priority for the Compliance Officer the strengthening of the Secretariat's technical capacity to examine, analyse and verify the data collected for the purposes of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.	H/M		96. The Compliance Committee expressed agreement with Recommendation Nr 30.	MoP endorses this recommendation.	H	Secretariat (ES and CO)	Completed	A Compliance Officer has been recruited in 2023. CC8 noted that additional activities to enhance the Secretariat capacity in relation to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme would evolve over time.
35	The Panel recommends, in case SIOFA CCPs are not prepared to implement an IT data platform as per Recommendation nr 34, urgent action is taken to ensure appropriate data verification protocols and quality checks are established.	H	69. Regarding Recommendation Nr 35, the SC noted that data verification protocols and quality checks are already in place, but acknowledged that they could be enhanced.		The MoP notes the comments of the SC, and that the work is ongoing	-		ongoing	The Secretariat notes that it currently has data check procedures for data submissions. Completed. The procedures are available on the SIOFA website (data section: https://siofa.org/Data/data-files).
40	The Panel recommends SIOFA CCPs task the Secretariat to review the documents and materials on the SIOFA website and make necessary tunings in accordance with any new data rules on dissemination and any relevant decisions of the MoP.	M			MoP supports the recommendation	M	Secretariat	ongoing	The Secretariat notes that the titles and abstracts of all SC11 restricted access documents have been made public on its website. In addition, versions of SC project reports (where appropriate) have also been made available publicly on the SIOFA website. The titles and documents for the MoP and CC that are in restricted access and Closed session, have only the abstract visible on the website(Title as well).

Conclusion

Most of the recommendations from the first Performance Review Panel have been completed or are close to finalisation. According to the first Performance Review Report (MoP-10-01, page 23) “A reiteration of the Performance Review process within an appropriate time frame, which we would recommend could be 5 years from now, given the fact this Review is the first such process carried out by the organisation”. In light of this recommendation, the MoP may wish to consider initiating a second iteration of the Performance Review process.

SIOFA Budget 2027,

2028-2029 Forecast

			Adopted MoP13	for MoP14	for MoP15
Item 1. Personnel Costs		€ 626,237	€ 630,987	€ 527,371	€ 531,696
1.A	Professional & General Staff (ES-DO-SO-CO-ICT Expert)	€ 438,769	€ 411,376	420,000	426,245
1.5	Separation from service	€ 36,564	€ 34,281	€ 35,000	€ 35,520
1.6	Temporary personnel	€ 20,000	€ 25,000	€ 26,250	€ 27,500
1.7	Rent subsidy	€ 27,000	€ 27,000	36,000	36,000
1.8	Assignment Grant* (2)	€ 0	€ 25,000	0	0
1.9	Travel Cost* (3)	€ 2,000	€ 10,000	0	0
1.1	Home leave	€ 2,000	€ 2,500	TBD	TBD
1.11	Child studying abroad leave	€ 3,000	€ 3,000	TBD	TBD
1.12	Single Parent/Child allowance	€ 5,150	€ 5,830	€ 6,121	€ 6,427
1.13	Spouse allowance	0	0	TBD	TBD
1.14	Education grant	0	0	TBD	TBD
1.15	Pension & health schemes	€ 87,754	€ 83,000	€ 90 000	€ 100 000
1.16	Staff development and training	€ 3,000	€ 4,000	€ 4,000	€ 4.00
Item 2. Property, Plant and Equipment		€ 25,400	€ 27,200	€ 27,848	€ 29,125
2.1	Convention d'hébergement charges	0	0	0	0
2.2	Maintenance	€ 16,800	€ 18,000	€ 18,333	€ 19,250
2.3	Utilities - Includes electricity, water, gas	0	0	0	0
2.4	Office Equipment and furniture	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,000

			Adopted MoP13	for MoP14	for MoP15
2.5	Consumables - Stationary, printer ink, paper	€ 1,600	€ 1,700	€ 1,765	€ 1,850
2.6	Insurance	€ 2,000	€ 2,500	€ 2,750	€ 3,025
Item 3. Meeting Support - SC (7 days)		€ 84,230	€ 81,550	€ 89,530	€ 93,560
3.1	Venue, catering, goodies	€ 32,000	€ 32,000	€ 33,600	€ 35,280
3.2	Secretariat travel and accommodation to meetings	€ 18,000	€ 13,900	€ 18,000	€ 18,000
3.3	Support staff (rapporteur, assistant, tech)	€ 13,000	€ 13,650	€ 14,330	€ 15,050
3.4	SC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Travel and Accommodation	€ 13,230	€ 12,000	€ 12,600	€ 13,230
3.5	Technical Service for meeting 6(a)	€ 8,000	€ 10,000	€ 11,000	€ 12,000
Item 4 Meeting Support - MoP (5 days) & CC (3 days)		€ 93,000	€ 110,000	€ 108,700	€ 113,560
4.1	Venue, catering, goodies	€ 32,000	€ 35,000	€ 36,750	€ 38,590
4.2	Secretariat travel and accommodation to meetings	€ 23,000	€ 30,000	€ 29,400	€ 30,870
4.3	Support staff (rapporteur, assistant, tech)	€ 15,000	€ 13,000	€ 15,750	€ 16,500
4.4	MoP VC and CC Chairperson Travel and Accommodation*	€ 7,500	€ 14,000	€ 8,400	€ 8,800
4.5	SC Chairperson Travel and Accommodation*	€ 7,500	€ 8,000	€ 8,400	€ 8,800
4.6	Technical Service for meeting 6(b)	€ 6,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
Item 5 Representation		€ 20,000	€ 33,500	€ 31,500	€ 33,000
5.1	Secretariat travel, notably for representation purposes	€ 20,000	€ 33,500	€ 31,500	€ 33,000
Item 6 Administration of Article 13.4		€ 20,000	€ 20,000	€ 20,000	€ 20,000
6.1.1	Financial assistance for travel to meetings	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
6.1.2	Financial assistance for accommodation	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
Item 7 Communications and IT		€ 14,000	€ 16,300	€ 16,900	€ 16,400
7.1	IT related consumables (Printing, telephone and internet services)	€ 5,500	€ 5,500	€ 6,000	€ 6,500
7.2	Database, server management, and software subscriptions	€ 4,400	€ 5,300	£4,900	€ 4,900

			Adopted MoP13	for MoP14	for MoP15
7.3	IT hardware (computers, peripherals, etc.)	€ 5,000	€ 5,500	€ 6,000	€ 5,000
Item 8 Financial Services		18,900	€ 21,100	€ 22,175	€ 23,350
8.1	Accounts and record keeping	€ 13,400	€ 14,100	€ 15,000	€ 16,000
8.2	Audit	€ 3,500	€ 3,500	€ 3,500	€ 3,500
8.3	Bank Charges	€ 3,000	€ 3,500	€ 3,675	€ 3,850
Item 9 Contracts for Specific Services		€ 119,000	€ 125,000	€ 121,000	€ 151,000
9.1	Research Activities	€ 65,000	€ 71,000	€ 65,000	€ 95,000
9.2	SC Chairperson	€ 44,000	€ 44,000	€ 46,000	€ 46,000
9.3	Consultant / Expert / Service outsourced	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
Item 10 Miscellaneous		€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,500	€ 6,000
10.1	Miscellaneous	€ 5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,500	€ 6,000
Item 11 SIOFA VMS Service		0	€ 0	€ 65,520	€ 70,000
11.1	Annual Indicative OpExp	0	0	€ 65,520	€ 70,000 (TBC)
Sub-total		€ 1,027,667	€ 1,070,637	€ 1,036,044	€ 1,087,691
Emergency/contingency fund		€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
INITIAL MOP contribution		€ 1,037,667	€ 1,080,637	€ 1,046,044	€ 1,097,691
Provisional Interest Livret A		€ 1,929	€ 1,735	1,232	1,250
Provisional Term Deposit Account		€ 11,600	€ 10,248	10,248	10,248
Reserve Fund Support (*)		€ 103,564	€ 179,281	45,000	84,110
MOP Contribution		€ 920,574	€ 889,373	€ 989,564	€ 1,002,083

CONTRIBUTION FOR 2027	
CCP	2027
Australia	38,464
China (People Republic of)	63,291
Cook Islands	200,140
European Union	131,159
France (OT)	34,763
Japan	81,945
Korea (Rep. Of)	27,679
Mauritius	20,169
Seychelles	18,661
Chinese Taipei	220,740
Thailand	52,362
TOTAL	889,373