

**Report of the First Meeting of the Parties to the
Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
Melbourne, Australia
18-19 October 2013**

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Agenda Item 1 – Election of the Chair for the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Parties to the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) was held in Melbourne, Australia from 18 to 19 October 2013.
2. The first day of the meeting was closed to enable Contracting Parties to discuss procedural and administrative matters. The meeting was attended by representatives from all Contracting Parties: Australia, the Cook Islands, the European Union, France, Mauritius and the Seychelles. The list of participants is at **Appendix A**.
3. The second day of the meeting was open to observers. A list of invited observers is at **Appendix B**. Observers from the following non-Contracting Parties attended: Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand.
4. Observers from the following regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO) and non-governmental organisations attended: Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA).
5. The Meeting of the Parties elected Dr. Ilona Stobutzki, representative of Australia, as Chairperson of the first meeting of the Parties.
6. The Chair welcomed attendees to the inaugural meeting of the Parties. The Chair's welcoming address is at **Appendix C**.
7. Contracting Parties introduced their delegations; there were no opening statements. Opening statements from observers are at **Appendix D**.

Agenda Item 1(a) - Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the agenda, with amendments. The final agenda is at **Appendix E**.
9. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is at **Appendix F**.

Agenda Item 1(b) – Meeting arrangements

10. The first day included discussion under Agenda Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9. The second day included an update from the Chair on the outcomes of discussions on the first day and further discussion under Agenda Items 3(a), 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

Agenda Item 2 – Secretariat

11. Australia opened discussions on options for the provision of secretariat services to support the ordinary meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and daily functions arising from the implementation of the Agreement.
12. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that in the interim, the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties will also provide secretariat services until long-term arrangements are agreed by Contracting Parties. Secretariat services will transfer to the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties at the point the meeting record of the last meeting is adopted. Any costs associated with the provision of secretariat services will be borne by the host Contracting Party.

Agenda Item 2(a) – Possible location arrangements

13. The Meeting of the Parties considered two options for the location of secretariat services for SIOFA:
 - a. using secretariat services co-located within an existing organisation that has in its scope the management of shared fisheries resources such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the IOTC or the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO); or,
 - b. a standalone secretariat specifically for SIOFA.
14. Some Contracting Parties expressed concerns with the co-location option, specifically how to ensure that the confidentiality of data is maintained; data are used appropriately; the provision of SIOFA secretariat services will be given due attention by the host organisation; and, ensure Contracting Parties that are not members of the host organisation are able to access services. It was suggested that the development of clear rules and procedures around the provision of secretariat services could address these concerns.
15. Some Contracting Parties expressed concerns about the potential costs associated with establishing a standalone secretariat, particularly given the current number of Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 2(a)(i) – Cost benefits analysis

16. Mauritius indicated interest in hosting a standalone secretariat for SIOFA. Mauritius agreed to report back with a costed proposal for consideration at the next Meeting of the Parties.
17. Mauritius suggested that they would be a cost competitive option as they already have in place the necessary infrastructure and systems, as a result of servicing a well-developed deepsea fishing industry and that some costs associated with hosting the Secretariat may be borne by the Mauritian government. Mauritius also noted they are located within the region and, that as a small island developing State, hosting the Secretariat would assist in their economic development.
18. The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the CCAMLR Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the CCAMLR Secretariat. Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
19. The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the SPRFMO Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA Secretariat services with the SPRFMO Secretariat. If the SPRFMO Secretariat is receptive to hosting SIOFA secretariat services, Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
20. The Meeting of the Parties authorised European Union to contact the IOTC Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the IOTC Secretariat. The European Union agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
21. The representative for the IOTC indicated that the IOTC Secretariat would be prepared to assist Contracting Parties with interim arrangements until a Secretariat is established and are willing to work with the European Union on a costed proposal.
22. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals from other Contracting Parties would also be welcomed.

23. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that there is no preferred option at this time for the provision of secretariat services for SIOFA, and that all options will be considered.
24. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow adequate time for consideration and to allow Contracting Parties to seek additional information if required.
25. The Meeting of the Parties noted that the functions of the secretariat are set out in Article 9 of the Agreement and will be set out in more detail in the Rules of Procedure which are yet to be adopted. Parties discussed what services would be required to enable the effective functioning of SIOFA.
26. The Meeting of the Parties discussed the staffing required for the provision of secretariat services. Considering the proposed functions of the Secretariat, staffing of other RFMOs, the current number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement and the level of fishing effort in the SIOFA Area, Contracting Parties noted that secretariat staff may only be required on a part-time basis. However, the future size and structure of the Secretariat may change depending on how the work of the meetings of the Parties develops. It was recognised that while part-time arrangements may constrain some proposals, it was generally understood that cost effectiveness will be a primary consideration in the selection of a Secretariat but that the services could evolve in time. With respect to proposals, it was noted that staffing costs could be scaled up should needs change.
27. The Meeting of the Parties also noted that it might be more cost effective for data collection, collation and database management services to be delivered separately to other secretariat services.
28. At a minimum, secretariat services and associated functions must be professional, cost effective, flexible, transparent and confidential. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that all proposals for the provision of SIOFA secretariat services should include:
 - a. ability to deliver functions prescribed in Article 9 of the Agreement and as follows:
 - i. Receiving and transmitting the official communications of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - ii. Facilitating the collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Agreement;
 - iii. Making all necessary arrangements for the ordinary meetings of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies where required;
 - iv. Preparing administrative and other reports for the meeting of the Parties, the Scientific Committee and any other subsidiary bodies established;
 - v. Having the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the meetings of the Parties;
 - vi. Administering and reporting to meetings of the Parties on financial and staffing resources;
 - vii. Preparing an annual report on the Secretariat's activities for the ordinary meeting of the Parties; and,

- viii. Communicating with other relevant regional fisheries management organisations / arrangements.
- b. costings for facilities and personnel, based on the above functions and staffing levels of:
 - i. 0.5 full time equivalent Executive Secretary;
 - ii. 0.5 full time equivalent Data Manager; and,
 - iii. 0.5 full time equivalent Administration Officer.
- c. costings for establishing (if required) and hosting data collection, collation and database management. Costings of these services should be provided:
 - i. as standalone services; and,
 - ii. in combination with the other secretariat functions.

Agenda Item 2(b) – Functions and provision of services

29. This item was discussed under Agenda Item 2(a)(i).

Agenda Item 3 – Drafting rules of procedure for SIOFA and subsidiary bodies

- 30. The Meeting of the Parties discussed the draft Rules of Procedure prepared by Australia and circulated for comment one month prior to the meeting. Comments provided by Australia and the European Union prior to the meeting were shown in an annotated draft. The meeting provided drafting suggestions and, noted areas which required further consideration.
- 31. The current draft Rules of Procedure, including drafting suggestions from Contracting Parties and outstanding issues requiring further consideration, are at **Appendix G**.
- 32. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia will progress the development of the draft Rules of Procedure in the intersessional period, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.
- 33. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

Agenda Item 3(a) – Establishment of subsidiary bodies under the Agreement

- 34. The Chair invited Contracting Parties to consider the establishment of subsidiary bodies.
- 35. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to establish a permanent Scientific Committee. The Meeting of the Parties agreed each Contracting Party will be entitled to appoint one representative with suitable scientific qualifications to the Scientific Committee who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers. The Scientific Committee will meet as often as may be necessary to fulfil its functions.
- 36. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia and the Seychelles will develop Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee for consideration by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that

Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to adopt these Terms of Reference in the intersessional period. The Terms of Reference will include future priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee.

37. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Terms of Reference should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not more than four months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months with a view to adoption of the Terms of Reference by Contracting Parties within the following month.
38. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that once the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee have been adopted, the Scientific Committee will be constituted in accordance with paragraph 35 as soon as practicable.
39. The Meeting of the Parties noted that the Agreement provides for the establishment of a Compliance Committee and considered that it would be appropriate to establish this committee once conservation and management measures (CMM) have been adopted.

Agenda Item 4 – Financial matters

40. The Chair invited Contracting Parties to consider financial arrangements for SIOFA, including the development of financial regulations, a budget contribution formula and a budget for the first financial period.

Agenda Item 4(a) – Drafting rules and regulations concerning financial management

41. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to develop financial regulations and a budget contribution formula to assess annual contributions. France and Mauritius volunteered to progress the development of draft financial regulations to include options for a budget contribution formula, to be considered by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period, with a view to adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.
42. The Meeting of the Parties also agreed the financial arrangements need to be equitable, transparent and affordable and, supported by robust systems. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should draw on the SPRFMO financial regulations as a model. Potential options for non-Contracting Party and other stakeholder contributions should also be explored. Options for interim financial arrangements (from the second meeting of the Parties until agreed otherwise) should also be provided for consideration, if required.
43. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

Agenda Item 4(b) – Provisional draft budget for first financial period

44. The Meeting of the Parties did not develop a provisional budget for the first financial period, noting the arrangements agreed to under paragraph 12 for the provision of interim secretariat services and the difficulties associated with administering a budget without a Secretariat.

Agenda Item 4(c) – Annual member contributions

45. This item was discussed under Agenda Item 4(a).

Agenda Item 5 – Progressing conservation and management measures

46. The Meeting of the Parties discussed the need to adopt conservation and management measures for fisheries resources and minimise impacts on the marine ecosystem, as a matter of priority. Some Contracting Parties expressed, consistent with the general principles underpinning the Agreement, that in the absence of adequate scientific information, this should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to adopt CMMs and that a precautionary approach should be applied.
47. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that, until the SIOFA Rules of Procedure are adopted, Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to temporary conservation and management measures (CMM) in the intersessional period, including but not limited to:
- a. deepsea gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets;
 - b. protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems; and,
 - c. constraints on the deepsea trawl fishery.
48. The Meeting of the Parties agreed all temporary measures should include:
- a. a mechanism and timeframe for review, including advice provided by the Scientific Committee when established;
 - b. a date upon which they will come into force after adoption by Contracting Parties; and,
 - c. a requirement for Contracting Parties to report on their implementation of the measure.
49. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that should a Contracting Party wish to propose temporary measures, that Contracting Party will propose a timeframe for the circulation, comment and possible adoption of the temporary measures being proposed, unless already agreed to by Contracting Parties. This timeframe is to be agreed by consensus by all Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 5(a) – UNGA Fisheries Resolution 61/105 (including subsequent measures) on VMEs and bottom fisheries

50. The Meeting of the Parties thanked Australia for providing a presentation on the implementation of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 (2009) and 66/68 (2011) by RFMO/As and their Members.
51. The Meeting of the Parties agreed there was a need to consider giving effect to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 (2009) and 66/68 (2011) prior to the next meeting of the Parties.
52. Noting this, Cook Islands agreed to draft proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures and to circulate these to Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties in the intersessional period for their consideration. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that draft proposals should be circulated not more than two months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months and with a view to adoption by consensus by Contracting Parties within the following month.

53. Recognising the importance of open and transparent procedures, Contracting Parties welcomed the involvement of observers in the development of temporary CMMs. The Meeting of the Parties also noted that the draft Rules of Procedure provide for the future involvement of observers in the development of CMMs.

Agenda Item 5(a)(i) – Arrangements for bottom fishing

54. The Cook Islands clarified that the UNGA Resolutions will form the foundation of their draft proposals for temporary CMMs relating to bottom fishing.

Agenda Item 5(b) – Arrangements for deepwater and pelagic gillnets

55. The Cook Islands clarified that their proposal for the prohibition of deepsea gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets in the SIOFA Area will be based on SPRFMO CMM 1.02, which prohibits the use of all deepwater gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets in the SPRFMO Convention Area.

Agenda Item 5(c) – Arrangements for pelagic fisheries

56. Contracting Parties identified that there was a lack of data on pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area and that there may need to be CMMs developed in the future to manage these fisheries.
57. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their past and current fishing activities relating to small pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area.

Agenda Item 5(d) – Treatment of SIODFA voluntary closures

58. A representative from SIODFA provided details of the network of benthic protected areas (BPAs) in the southern Indian Ocean that have been voluntarily closed to deepwater trawling by SIODFA members, and expressed SIODFA's desire to see these closures formally adopted by SIOFA. SIODFA advised that these closures have already been implemented by Australia and the Cook Islands through their national regulatory processes. SIODFA also stressed that while its members have collected extensive biological and physical data, much about the sea floor remains unknown. SIODFA stated that it also remains concerned about the potential impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, in particular deepwater sharks and coldwater corals and sponges if SIOFA fails to adopt CMMs to effectively manage fishing activities in the SIOFA Area.
59. The Cook Islands clarified that their draft CMM on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems will include consideration of the SIODFA closures. Contracting Parties noted that in developing measures to conserve and manage vulnerable marine ecosystems, scientific evidence, including papers on the SIODFA closures, will be considered by the Scientific Committee once it has been convened.

Agenda Item 6 – Other management measures

60. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide each meeting of the Parties with a report on their fishing activities in the SIOFA Area and measures they have taken to implement temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 6(a) – Scientific data standards, confidentiality, submission and management

61. The IOTC provided a report detailing its data repository services for SIOFA Contracting Parties. The report is at **Appendix H**. The IOTC noted that it archives the data received in the format provided and does not conduct any analysis of the data. The IOTC stated that to date, it has received limited data from the European Union, Japan and Korea.
62. A representative from SIODFA noted that there are currently four vessels from its membership (Australia, the Cook Islands and Japan) operating in the SIOFA Area. SIODFA considers the provision of fine scale catch and effort data to be necessary to inform the development of CMMs.
63. The Cook Islands noted that they had not received the necessary request to submit data to the IOTC and so had not done so. The Cook Islands advised that they are willing to submit the data in the intersessional period. Australia advised that national data confidentiality protocols had prevented submission of the data at this time. The European Union advised that they will be submitting further data to the IOTC shortly.
64. The development of scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data was discussed further under Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 6(b) – MCS measures: VMS, observer programs, port state measures, etc

65. The Meeting of the Parties considered strong monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems to be an essential part of an effective fisheries management framework. Contracting Parties identified some key CMMs they would like to see adopted, including the establishment of a vessel monitoring system, system of inspection and observer program.
66. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to commence intersessional discussions on the development of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures. These discussions are to be led by the European Union.

Agenda Item 6(c) – IUU fishing

67. The Meeting of the Parties discussed the need to progress a CMM to establish a process for listing vessels suspected of conducting or supporting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. It was suggested that such a CMM could be based on SPRFMO CMM 1.04 which sets out a comprehensive procedure for the listing of IUU vessels.
68. A representative from SIODFA advised that SIODFA vessels record observations of vessels fishing in the SIOFA Area and this information is reported to members' flag States.
69. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the European Union will develop a discussion paper on the process for listing vessels suspected of conducting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that this paper should give consideration to establishing mechanisms to identify vessels authorised to operate in the SIOFA Area, including the establishment of a SIOFA registry of authorised vessels. This paper is to be circulated to Contracting Parties in the intersessional period for consideration.

70. To assist Parties in identifying vessels suspected of conducting or supporting IUU fishing activities, Australia encouraged Contracting Parties to provide other Contracting Parties with information on their flagged vessels currently authorised to operate in the SIOFA Area.

Agenda Item 7 – Provision of scientific advice

71. The Contracting Parties considered options for the provision of scientific advice and the role of the Scientific Committee. The Meeting of the Parties considered models adopted by other RFMOs where technical scientific work, including stock assessments and other analyses, is outsourced to an independent scientific organisation or conducted by Contracting Parties. In both models, the Scientific Committee would be responsible for developing a scientific work plan to be agreed and prioritised by Contracting Parties, which would identify the priority scientific work and provide scientific quality assurance and peer review in evaluating the results of this work.
72. A number of observers expressed the importance of providing an appropriate mechanism for the involvement of observers in the work of the Scientific Committee. Contracting Parties welcomed the involvement of observers in the work of the Scientific Committee, noting this involvement would be governed by the Rules of Procedure which are yet to be adopted.
73. The Meeting of the Parties agreed the Scientific Committee be tasked with developing:
- a. draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee;
 - b. a draft work plan identifying priority scientific work. This work plan should include, but is not limited to:
 - i. development of scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, using the SPRFMO scientific data standards as a model;
 - ii. identification and distribution of vulnerable marine ecosystems;
 - iii. determination of the state of play of current fishing activities for both bottom and pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area;
 - iv. determination of requirements for stock assessments for deepsea fisheries;
 - v. determination of the impacts of fishing on associated and dependant species, in particular deepsea sharks and seabirds;
 - vi. provide scientific advice to assist the review of temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.
74. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure and work plan, should be circulated to Contracting Parties not less than 60 days prior to the next meeting of the Parties, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

Agenda Item 8 – Other business

Agenda Item 8(a) – Current fishing in the SIOFA Area

75. The Meeting of the Parties noted updates provided by Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties on fishing activities currently being conducted by flagged vessels in the SIOFA Area, as follows:

- a. Australia advised that there is currently one Australian-flagged vessel operating in the SIOFA Area and that the operator was represented at the meeting by SIODFA. Australia also advised that it has had other vessels operating in the SIOFA Area in the past.
- b. The Cook Islands advised that there are currently two Cook Islands-flagged vessels operating in the SIOFA Area, noting the operators were in attendance at the meeting as part of the SIODFA delegation. These vessels primarily target Alfonsino with one operating out of Mauritius and the other out of South Africa.
- c. The European Union advised that one Spanish-flagged vessel has been operating in the SIOFA Area since 2012. EU also advised that it has had other vessels operating in the SIOFA Area in the past.
- d. France advised that from 2010 to 2012, there were two French-flagged vessels operating primarily in the waters surrounding the French Antarctic Territories. These vessels fished in the SIOFA Area when transiting between the Crozet Islands, the CCAMLR Area and Réunion Island. These vessels primarily target toothfish and other pelagic species, such as grenadier.
- e. Mauritius, the Seychelles and New Zealand advised that there are no flagged vessels currently operating in the SIOFA Area. Mauritius stated that they provide port services for a number of vessels operating in the SIOFA Area.
- f. Japan advised that in recent years there have been three Japanese-flagged vessels operating in the SIOFA Area. Two vessels primarily targeted Alfonsino using mid-water trawl; the remaining vessel targeted toothfish species in the CCAMLR Area using bottom longlining.
- g. Korea advised that there are currently four Korean-flagged vessels operating in the SIOFA Area, three longliners and one trawl, and that further data could be made available on request.

76. Contracting Parties discussed the importance of information on current fishing activities in the SIOFA Area to inform the development of CMMs.

77. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that each Contracting Party is to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their flagged vessels' fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed Australia would develop a draft report template and will circulate this to Contracting Parties for their consideration prior to finalisation.

Agenda Item 8(b) – Status of ratifications/accessions to SIOFA

78. The Meeting of the Parties noted updates provided by non-Contracting Parties on the status of ratifications and accessions to SIOFA, as follows:

- a. New Zealand advised that they are currently undertaking the domestic processes necessary to ratify SIOFA.

- b. Japan advised that they are currently undertaking the domestic processes necessary to accede to SIOFA.
 - c. Korea advised they plan to complete the domestic processes necessary to become a Contracting Party to SIOFA, with a view to completing those processes by the first half of next year.
79. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that signatory Parties will be provided with a copy of the Report of the first meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties also agreed to extend an invitation to signatory Parties, to the next meeting of the Parties.

Agenda Item 9 – Date and location of next meeting

80. The Meeting of the Parties accepted the generous offer of Mauritius to host the second meeting of the Parties in March 2015. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the costs of the second meeting of the Parties would be borne by the host Contracting Party.

Agenda Item 10 – Adoption of decisions

81. The Meeting of the Parties formally adopted the decisions at **Appendix I**. A summary of timeframes for the completion of tasks agreed to by Contracting Parties is at **Appendix J**.
82. The Chair thanked Contracting Parties and observers for their valuable contributions to the meeting and closed the meeting at 4:07 pm on 19 October 2013.

Appendix A – List of Attendees at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

CHAIRPERSON

Dr Ilona STOBUTZKI
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OBSERVERS – ATTENDED SECOND DAY OF MEETING ONLY
OBSERVERS – NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES**Japan**

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OBSERVERS – INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

**Indian Ocean Tuna
Commission (IOTC)**

Mr Rondolph PAYET
IOTC Executive Secretary
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OBSERVERS – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

**Deep Sea Conservation
Coalition (DSCC)**

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**International Union for
Conservation of Nature
(IUCN)**

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**Southern Indian Ocean
Deep-sea Fishers
Association (SIODFA)**

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Mr Andy SMITH
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Mr Ross TOCKER
SIODFA President
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Appendix B – List of Invited Observers to the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

1. Coastal States with waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the SIOFA Area
 - a. Comoros
 - b. Kenya
 - c. Madagascar
 - d. Mozambique
 - e. South Africa
 - f. Tanzania
2. Non-Contracting Parties with a fishing interest in the SIOFA Area
 - a. Japan
 - b. Korea, Republic of
3. Signatories to SIOFA (who are not coastal States)
 - a. New Zealand
4. Intergovernmental organisations referred to in Article 14 of SIOFA
 - a. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
 - b. South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
5. Regional fisheries management organisations which border the SIOFA Area
 - a. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
 - b. Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
 - c. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
 - d. South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
 - e. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
6. Non-governmental organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of SIOFA
 - a. Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
 - b. Greenpeace
 - c. Humane Society International
 - d. International Union for Conservation of Nature
 - e. TRAFFIC
 - f. World Wildlife Fund
7. Industry representatives
 - a. Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers Association

Appendix C – Welcoming Address of the Chairperson of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for nominating me as Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties. On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to say a few words. I'd like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders both past and present.

I extend a warm welcome to all of you on your visit to Melbourne. I know that many of you have travelled a long way to be here and I trust that you have recovered from your jet lag.

It gives me great pleasure to chair the first Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. I am pleased that all Parties have been able to attend. The number of observers that will participate in the second day of the meeting is an indication of the keen interest from non-Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organisations, industry and non-government organisations in the activities of SIOFA Meetings of the Parties.

I hope that this meeting will give SIOFA Parties and participants a chance to begin substantive discussions on developing and implementing key foundation documents which will govern future Meetings of the Parties. Only when these documents have been adopted can Parties adopt conservation and management measures to establish formal management arrangements to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the SIOFA Area.

I hope that all participants will enjoy their stay in Melbourne.

Thank you very much.

We have a lot of items to discuss today and tomorrow, so without further ado, let's begin.

Appendix D – Opening Statements from Observers at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Appendix D 1. Opening Statement by New Zealand

New Zealand is very pleased to participate in this first meeting of the SIOFA Parties.

This first meeting of the SIOFA sends a strong message to the international community that SIOFA is progressing from being an agreement on paper to an actual framework that will allow it to put in place conservation and management measures that will ensure the sustainability of the resources under its jurisdiction.

New Zealand has always had an interest in SIOFA, both as a fishing nation and also as an early participant in the development of this agreement. In this regard we look forward to participating in today's discussions that will help shape SIOFA's future.

We are, once again, very pleased to see this first meeting of the SIOFA Parties come to fruition.

Appendix D 2. Opening Statement by Japan

Thank you Chair,

First of all, I thank all of the members of this Agreement, for inviting us to this meeting as an observer today.

Japan welcomes the entry into force of SIOFA and celebrate that first meeting is held in this place.

In recent years, 3 (three) Japan-flagged fishing vessels have operated in the SIOFA area. Two of them are trawlers whose main target species is alfonsino, and they conduct mid-water trawling operations only (except for some experimental operations) for the meanwhile, following the instruction from the Japanese government against the background of the United Nations General Assembly fisheries resolutions. The other one is a bottom longliner which operates mostly in the CCAMLR area targeting Patagonian toothfish and Antarctic toothfish. Fishing operations of those (3) three vessels are not necessarily on an every-year basis, and they do not operate in the SIOFA area on a year-around basis.

Anyway, Japan wishes to secure the opportunities of continuous and sustainable participation in fisheries in the SIOFA area for at least 3 (three) vessels for the moment, and is willing to participate in the activities to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources based on scientific evidences under the framework of the SIOFA. In this respect, the Japanese government is now in the process of preparation for its accession of the Agreement, which requires some time period to complete.

For a while, until its accession of the Agreement, Japan will voluntarily take part in and contribute to the development and implementation of conservation and management measures to be adopted under the framework of the SIOFA based on scientific evidences, and therefore we think that Japan should be treated as a "cooperative non-Contracting Party" which can enjoy benefits from participation in the fishery commensurate with its commitment to comply with, and record of compliance with,

conservation and management measures, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 4 of the Agreement.

Appendix D 3. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Australian government for the preparation of the 1st SIOFA meeting and thanks to all delegations for your great commitment. Korea definitely values the fishing activities in the SIOFA convention area and wish to secure the continuous fishing opportunities in this region. In this regard, Korea plans to join SIOFA soon. I expect the time will be the first half of next year at the latest.

Korea affirms its commitment towards the conservation and responsible use of fishery resources, and values the scientific advice and fully supports the upcoming SIOFA conservation and management measures. We are hoping our concerns and views can be reflected in those measures. I would like to ask the Commission to discuss Korea related, sensitive issues after we join the SIOFA, if it is acceptable. Lastly, Korea reaffirms its willingness and full commitment to continue fishing activities in SIOFA area.

Appendix D 4. Opening Statement by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

We are very pleased to participate at the first session of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. As you are aware, the IOTC was requested in 2005 to act as the depository of the data for the RFMO. We would like to continue to collaborate and provide any support to the SOFIA, obviously within our means, until it becomes fully operational.

Appendix D 5. Opening Statement by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Thank you Madam Chair, and good morning delegates

This intervention is being given by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), which has over 70 members, and Greenpeace International, which is a member of the DSCC.

We welcome the entry into force of SIOFA and welcome the initiative of the Parties to hold this First Meeting. The entry into force of SIOFA, and this meeting, has been long and eagerly awaited. Delegates should already have our briefing which was distributed earlier.

We want to observe that the UNGA has a review of its deep sea fishing resolutions in 2015, and it is of the utmost importance that SIOFA puts into place a measure, or at the very least an interim measure, which is compliant with resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 and 66/68, to which all states represented here have agreed. The UNGA in its fisheries resolution 66/68 (2011) urged States with an interest in fishing in the SIOFA area to [I quote] “agree on and implement interim measures, including measures in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105 and paragraphs 117, 119, 120, 122 and 123 of resolution 64/72 of 2009, to ensure the conservation and management of the fisheries resources and their marine ecosystems and habitats in the area to which that Agreement applies until such time as that Agreement enters into force.”

DSCC therefore encourages this meeting to establish a robust and transparent procedure to put into place the procedures and requirements laid down in the UNGA resolutions, including to

1. carry out the required assessments;
2. to put into place compliant measures, including those required to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and
3. carry out stock assessments and put into place conservation measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, including non-target or bycatch species, and the rebuilding of depleted fish stocks.
4. Also, crucially, SIOFA should require States not to authorize bottom fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented.

DSCC also calls on this meeting to follow the South Pacific RFMO (SPRMO), in its measure CMM 1.02 (2013), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) and CCAMLR to ban deepwater gillnets. CCAMLR called it “a potentially destructive fishing method, and a practice which may undermine the ability of the Commission to achieve its conservation objective” and said that it was greatly concerned by the impacts on non-target species, especially sharks and rays. Deep-sea gillnets, by their indiscriminate nature, pose a significant risk to almost all marine life, including marine mammals. Gillnets cause large quantities of by-catch, ghost fishing by lost or discarded gillnets, and large scale habitat disturbance due to nets dragging along the sea floor. That is why CCAMLR banned it in their measure 22-204 in 2010.

Finally, DSCC calls on SIOFA to adopt Rules of Procedure which, as far as possible, follow the SPRFMO Rules of Procedure, and which follow international best practice with respect to transparency, and agrees a management measure to establish a blacklist of IUU vessels as a matter of urgency.

Thank you

Duncan Currie

Appendix D 6. Opening Statement by the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association

Ross Tocker, President, SIODFA and General Manager, Fishing Operations, Sealord Group thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity for the Association to be present as observers at the first plenary meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIODFA). The Association was excited by the start of activities of the Agreement (SIOFA) and the commitment felt by SIODFA's members and indication of their good will and support towards the Agreement was indicated by the presence at the meeting of representatives from all of the Associations members – from Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa.

Ross Tocker noted in particular the early adoption – in 2006 – by the Association of over 300 000 km² in the Southern Indian Ocean as Benthic Protected Areas, a voluntary commitment by the Association's members to conserve biodiversity and fishery resources in the Area. These and other management practices undertaken by the Association's members are described in the 2006 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 1020, “Management of Demersal Fisheries Resources of the Southern Indian Ocean 2006, which included specification of benthic protected areas and a programme of fisheries research.

This report outlined the procedures to be followed by members for the collection of bycatch data (corals and related benthos, deepwater sharks), fisheries research data (data on fish sizes, sex and gonad condition) as well as recommended procedures for stock assessments.

Tocker noted that SIODFA only represented deepwater fishing operators in the region and the Association recognized that SIOFA must also address problems arising from other non-tuna fisheries in the Agreement area. It had been extremely valuable that the Association has been able to hire as their Executive Secretary Dr R. Shotton, who had previously been the FAO Fisheries Resources Officer responsible for the Western Indian Ocean. Tocker further noted that SIODFA had just held its 13th meeting: previous meetings had been held in locations such as Vigo, Rome, Cape Town, Mauritius, Hobart and Raratonga in the Cook Islands. Our meetings have been observed by a wide range of fisheries organizations including the FAO.

The Executive Secretary, Ross Shotton, confirmed the objectives of SIODFA: fisheries that were sustainable in both the short- and long-term that created a maximum of benefits – food, employment and profits, or, as termed by economists, social benefits. To achieve this required not only the effective conventional activities of fisheries management, i.e.

- i. Collection of appropriate data on the performance of the fishery
- ii. Its collation, analysis and reporting
- iii. Care for the marine environment/biodiversity, especially of targeted and associated species and deepwater sharks, and in the case of bottom-contact gear the fragile benthos or cold water corals, sponges, etc.
- iv. Assessment of the status of the stocks and
- v. Decisions on an appropriate harvesting regime for targeted species.

While to some these objectives sound simple, in reality they are complex and elusive and usually surrounded by major uncertainty along several dimensions.

All SIODFA vessels are required by their flag states to collect appropriate operations data. However, SIODFA research shows that at least 43 vessels participated in the deepwater fishery in 2001 alone and perhaps more since 1996 - the recent period of this fishery. Detailed operations data exists for SIODFA vessels that await a comprehensive analysis in an appropriate confidential framework.

SIODFA has addressed the issue of coral bycatch through the implementation of a coral/benthos bycatch recording programme. While the self-evident is acknowledged, i.e. a trawl bottom rope in contact with the seafloor will damage or destroy fragile encounters, SIODFA analyses have confirmed skippers' reports that with occasional exceptions significant coral bycatch is rare and SIODFA believe this is not a priority marine biodiversity issue. No matter this, SIODFA is currently negotiating with the CSIRO, Hobart to undertake a study that will, in the first instance, examine rates of regeneration of coldwater corals and other sessile benthos. SIODFA has the ships, CSIRO has the scientific expertise and though joint collaboration it is planned to research this issue. Involvement of other interested and competent institutions is welcome.

SIODFA has been more concerned with the issue of deepwater sharks as a biodiversity issue, a far less photogenic member of relevant ecosystems and one that has generally been ignored by environmental lobbyists. SIODFA vessels have (i) instituted a deepwater shark data recording programme, (ii) co-ventured with the National Science Foundation's Elasmobranch Genetic Mapping Programme and the Mauritius Division of Fisheries in an action that resulted in the discovery of 10 new species of sharks from a

single trip! And (iii), provided expert advice to the FAO on the preparation of a much-needed species guide for the identification of this taxonomically poorly known group of fishes.

SIODFA recognized from its start that the 'boutique' nature of their fishery, 4 – 5 vessels spread over the Southern Indian Ocean, would prevent the use of conventional fishery-independent methods of stock assessment. Thus, we have taken the initiative of developing commercial-vessel aggregation-based acoustic fish-stock assessment methods. SIODFA requires that all its vessel must be equipped with an acoustic system capable of quantitative acoustic resource assessment, e.g. Simrad E.S. 60 systems or better that have been calibrated following internationally accepted protocols. Vessels are required to implement an agreed sampling procedure and data analysis. We have proven the feasibility of this method, indeed SIODFA members had a major role in the recent FAO global technical consultation on this method. Notwithstanding this, we wish SIOFA to urgently accept the responsibility for providing a governance framework so as to fully formalize the methodology and ensure acceptance and application of the method.

SIODFA is fully aware of the need for ongoing biological observations and analyses: these we have formally addressed since the inception of the Association in 2005. All member vessels must commit to the collection of a wide range of biological information on targeted species so that management models can be confidently parameterized. Such data may, we hope, also facilitate stock identifications needed for successful resource management. We are fully aware that we have a way to go from a resource management perspective and there is certainly scope to increase our understanding of the nature and status of the region's fish stocks.

SIODFA is acutely aware of the need for immediate conservation and management measures. As fishery managers and administrators, we realize that it is unnecessary to advise you of the disastrous consequences of an open access fishery – the situation that prevails today, a situation that would be intolerable in the sovereign waters of the Parties at this meeting. We have done what we can. SIODFA members have pledged to maintain operations at a level of one vessel only, a pledge that has been fulfilled by all members.

A further fear for fishery is that where unregulated effort allows access by unskilled operators. In deepwater fisheries, their inexperienced or clumsy gear handling usually results in damage to the benthos if not loss of gear. Pulses of landings can depress market prices so that rather than a fishery covering its costs (and, not least, its ability to fund research and management activity), losses are spread through the fleet. SIODFA believes that a cap on effort in the fishery should be established on an immediate basis. This would mean, in the first instance, fixing the maximum number of vessels in the fishery, based on, for example, recent practice.

SIODFA stresses that the basic information does not exist to ensure that an expansion of fishing effort can be undertaken in a risk-averse manner. We stress that the 'Precautionary Approach' demands that a robust well-designed programme of resource assessment and analysis be undertaken on an immediate basis to inform decisions on the level of participation in this fishery. To fail to do so clearly invites great risk of yet another depleted and failed fishery of the world's oceans.

SIODFA wishes to bring to your attention SIODFA meeting documents 13/08, "The Role of Effort Limitation in Ensuring Sustainable Deepwater Fisheries in the Southern Indian Ocean and the Effort-Limitation Policy of the Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association", and 13/05 Rev. 1, "SIODFA Perceptions of Management and Research Issues to be Addressed and their Priorities".

Shotton noted that SIODFA holds as an objective that of having for the Southern Indian Ocean the best managed deepwater fisheries in the world. The small size of the fishery and the coherence and good will of its members underscore the achievability of this objective. SIODFA urges Parties to be world leaders in developing and applying the management success stories so abundant in member countries such as in Australia and New Zealand's rights based fisheries, indeed those too of Japan and the European Union. This will mean creating a system of incentives for operators that reverses concerns about confidentiality of information and the inherent competitiveness of the fishery to rather incentives for cooperation. As has long been acknowledged by EU fisheries policy, secure and durable fishing entitlements building on the successful examples of NAFO, NEAFC and ICCAT are the means to achieving this prize of the best managed deep-sea fisheries in the world.

SIODFA wishes to assure delegates of their complete cooperation and availability, of skills and experiences that span the world's deepwater fisheries, not least those in the sovereign EEZs of a range of countries –SIDs, developing and developed countries. To do this will require all stakeholders to 'roll up our sleeves and recognize the need for immediate action.

Appendix E – Agenda Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement 1st Meeting of Parties 18-19 October 2013, Melbourne, Australia

Welcome and opening of meeting

1. Election of Chair for the meeting
 - a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - b. Meeting arrangements
2. Secretariat
 - a. Possible location arrangements
 - i. Cost benefits analysis
 - b. Functions and provision of services
3. Drafting rules of procedure for SIOFA and subsidiary bodies
 - a. Establishment of subsidiary bodies under Agreement
4. Financial matters
 - a. Drafting rules and regulations concerning financial management
 - b. Provisional draft budget for first financial period
 - c. Annual member contributions
5. Progressing conservation and management measures
 - a. UNGA resolution 61/105 (etc) on VMEs and bottom fishing
 - i. Arrangements for bottom fishing
 - b. Arrangements for deepwater and pelagic gillnets
 - c. Arrangements for pelagic fisheries
 - d. Treatment of SIOFA voluntary closures
6. Other management measures
 - a. Scientific data standards, submission and management
 - b. MCS: VMS, observer program, etc
 - c. IUU fishing
7. Provision of scientific advice
8. Other business
 - a. Current fishing in the SIOFA Area
 - b. Status of ratifications/accessions to SIOFA
9. Date and location of next meeting
10. Adoption of decisions

Meeting Close

Appendix F – List of Documents Submitted to the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Title	Submitted by	Relates to Agenda Item
Papers submitted by Contracting Parties		
List of invited observers to the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	Australia (on behalf of the Contracting Parties)	1
Draft Provisional Agenda	Australia (on behalf of the Contracting Parties)	1(a)
Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda (circulated to Contracting Parties only)	Australia	1(a)
Non-paper on options for the carrying out of secretariat services for Meetings of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (circulated to Contracting Parties only)	Australia	2
Draft Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties	Australia	3
Information papers submitted by observers		
Briefing for the First Meeting of the Parties of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	Deep Sea Conservation Coalition	3, 5 and 6
IOTC Status report on the data situation with regards to the SIOFA	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	2 and 6(a)
Progressing Conservation and Management Measures for the Deepwater Fisheries of the Southern Indian Ocean: Views and Recommendations of the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association	Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)	5 and 6
SIODFA Perceptions of Management and Research Issues to be Addressed and their Priorities	SIODFA	3, 5, 6 and 7
Origin of the SIODFA Benthic Protected Areas Programme and Information Relating to these Areas	SIODFA	5 and 6
Physical Oceanography of the Southern Indian Ocean	SIODFA	5 and 6
The Role of Effort Limitation in Ensuring Sustainable Deepwater Fisheries in the Southern Indian Ocean and the Effort-Limitation Policy of the Southern Indian Ocean Deepwater Fishers Association	SIODFA	5 and 6
Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management by the Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fisheries Association to its Aimed-Trawl Deepwater Fisheries	SIODFA	5 and 6
FAO Fisheries Circular No. 1020: Management of Demersal Fisheries Resources of the Southern Indian Ocean	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	5 and 6
Letter to SIOFA participants about the FAO's project on 'Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in Areas beyond national jurisdiction' (the ABNJ Deep-Sea Project)	FAO	
FAO Information Note for SIOFA on the ABNJ Deep-Sea Project	FAO	
Presentations		
Management of impacts of deep-sea fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction	Australia	5(a)

Appendix G – Draft SIOFA Rules of Procedure

Rules of Procedure of Meetings of the Parties

Part I – Meetings

Rule 1 – Ordinary meetings

1. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the Agreement), the Contracting Parties to the Agreement shall convene meetings of the Parties annually, unless the Meeting of the Parties otherwise decides, to consider matters relating to the implementation of the Agreement and to make decisions relevant thereto.
2. The ordinary meetings of the Parties shall normally be hosted by one of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement or as otherwise agreed.
- 3.

Rule 2 – Extraordinary Meetings

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU to develop additional language for the option of the Executive Secretary being able to propose an extraordinary meeting if supported by at least two Contracting Parties (based on the IATTC model)}

1. In exceptional circumstances, the Contracting Parties may hold extraordinary meetings in accordance with this rule.
2. Any Contracting Party may request the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Parties. The request shall include a draft provisional agenda setting out the items proposed to be considered in the extraordinary meeting. The Executive Secretary shall immediately inform the other Contracting Parties of the request.

{Note that Contracting Parties have agreed to delete the designated provision in rule 7.}

3. If two other Contracting Parties support the request and after consulting the Executive Secretary and other Contracting Parties as may be feasible in the circumstances, the Chairperson shall determine the date and venue of the extraordinary meeting. To the extent practicable and unless the Contracting Parties agree otherwise, the Party calling for the extraordinary meeting shall offer to host that meeting.
4. The Executive Secretary shall notify the Contracting Parties and observers referred to in rule 19, of the date and venue and transmit at the same time, a provisional agenda for the extraordinary meeting as early as possible but not less than 30 days before the opening of the meeting.

Part II – Representation and Official Contacts

Rule 3 – Representation

1. Each Contracting Party to the Agreement shall be represented at Meetings of the Parties by one designated representative who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.
2. Observers referred to in rule 19 shall be represented by one designated representative who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.
3. The names of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary as far in advance of any meeting as possible and before the commencement of each meeting.

Rule 4 – Official contact

1. Each Contracting Party to the Agreement shall, as soon as possible after the adoption of these rules, notify the Executive Secretary of one or more Official Contacts who shall, for the purposes of official communications about matters relating to the implementation of the Agreement, including all notifications, invitations and communications made pursuant to these rules, be the official points of contact for that Contracting Party.
2. Any notifications, initiations and communications to Contracting Parties made pursuant to these rules or the Agreement are to be sent to the nominated Official Contact or Contacts.

Part III – Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Rule 5 – Elections

1. [At the first Meeting of the Parties, the Contracting Parties shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the representatives, alternate representatives and advisers of the Contracting Parties, each of whom shall serve for a maximum of one meeting and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional meeting. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be from different Contracting Parties.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Contracting Parties need to decide whether the elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, are persons or Parties. France to develop additional language to provide for both temporary and permanent incapacitation of the Chairperson (modeled on CCAML Rules 12-13).}

2. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall take office at the conclusion of the Meeting of the Parties at which they are elected, with the exception of the first Meeting of the Parties where they will take office immediately upon their election.
3. If the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson is unable to carry out his or her functions or ceases to be a representative of a Contracting Party, he or she shall cease to hold office and a new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall be elected for the unexpired term. If the Chairperson is unable to carry out his or her functions, the Vice-Chairperson will act as Chairperson until a new Chairperson is elected.

[Rule 6 – Functions of the Chairperson]

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU and Cook Islands to develop additional language concerning procedures for the treatment of conflicts of interest including the requirement to declare conflicts of interest.}

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere in these rules, the Chairperson shall:
 - a) declare the opening and closing of each meeting;
 - b) preside at meetings;
 - c) ensure observance of these rules;
 - d) rule on points of order;
 - e) call for and announce the result of votes;
 - f) approve, after consultation with the Executive Secretary, the provisional agenda for a meeting called pursuant to Part I of these rules
 - g) sign, on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties, a report of the proceedings of each meeting convened pursuant to Part I, for transmission to all Contracting Parties and to any State, entity, inter-governmental or non-governmental organisation which has attended the meeting, and
 - h) make such decisions and give such directions to the Executive Secretary as will ensure that the business of implementing the Agreement is carried out effectively and in accordance with the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Chairperson may, in the course of discussion of an item, propose to the Meeting of the Parties, the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate. The Chairperson may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.
3. The Chairperson, in the exercise of his or her functions, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.
4. The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.
5. [Whilst holding that office, a person who is elected as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson despite remaining designated as the representative of a Contracting Party, shall not perform the duties of representative, alternative representative or adviser of a Contracting Party at any Meeting of the Parties. A Contracting Party whose designated representative has been elected as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may designate another person as representative.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Mauritius and Australia to develop alternative language.}

6. [Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties decides on other arrangements for the carrying out of secretariat services in accordance with rule 7, the Chairperson shall nominate an official to act as Executive Secretary to the Meeting of the Parties to perform the functions set out in article 9 of the Agreement and these rules for a term of one year. This official may be from within the Government of the Chairperson, within the Government of the Contracting Party who will be hosting the next meeting, or another official as agreed by the Meeting of the Parties. At each Meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson shall advise the name and address of the acting Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall remain in function until a successor has taken up duties.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Paragraph likely to be removed, given agreement in the meeting report on interim arrangements for the hosting of secretariat services. EU and Australia to develop additional language to provide for an open and transparent procedure for the selection of an Executive Secretary.}

Part IV – Secretariat

Rule 7 – Arrangements for the carrying out of secretariat services

1. The Meeting of the Parties may establish a Secretariat consisting of an Executive Secretary and such staff appointed by him or her and under his or her supervision, on such terms as the Meeting may determine in accordance with the Agreement, with due regard to principles of economy and efficiency. The Executive Secretary shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment by the Meeting of the Parties for one additional term.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may decide to enter into an arrangement with an existing entity, such as the Secretariat of an international organisation that has in its scope the management of shared fisheries resources, to provide secretariat services for the Meeting of the Parties, on such terms as the Meeting and the chief administrative officer of that Secretariat may determine. The arrangement will designate a suitably qualified official to act as Executive Secretary for the Meeting of the Parties and perform the functions set out in article 9 of the Agreement and these rules.
3. [Until such time as the Meeting of the Parties decides on arrangements for the carrying out of Secretariat services, the acting Executive Secretary referred to in rule 6(6) shall perform the Secretariat functions set out in article 9 of the Agreement and these rules for a term of one year.]

Rule 8 – Secretariat's functions

1. The Secretariat shall perform such functions as are prescribed by the Meeting of the Parties including:

[a]bis Having full power and authority over the Secretariat subject to the general supervision of the Meeting of the Parties and within the provisions of staff regulations;]

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU and Australia to develop language on Executive Secretary functions.}

- a) Receiving and transmitting the official communications of the Meeting of the Parties;
- b) Facilitating the collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Agreement;
- c) Making all necessary arrangements for the ordinary meetings of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies where required;
- d) Preparing administrative and other reports for the Meeting of the Parties, the Scientific Committee and any other subsidiary bodies established;
- e) Having the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the Commission;
- f) Administering and reporting to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties on financial and staffing resources;
- g) Preparing a report on the Secretariat's activities for the ordinary Meeting of the Parties; and
- h) Communicating with other relevant regional fisheries management organisations / arrangements.

[2. The Executive Secretary shall assist the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in fulfilling their respective tasks.]

[3. The Executive secretary shall also accomplish any other functions requested by the Meeting of the Parties aiming the fulfilment of the Agreement objectives.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU and Australia to develop language on Executive Secretary functions.}

Part V – Preparation for Meetings

Rule 9 – Agenda for ordinary meetings

1. [The Executive Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with the Chairperson, a provisional agenda for an ordinary meeting of the Parties. The provisional agenda shall be transmitted [no less than x days prior to the meeting of Parties] by the Executive Secretary to all Contracting Parties and to observers referred to in rule 19.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Australia to revise language to provide timeframes for the circulation of the provisional agenda. Similar language needed concerning the circulation of other relevant documents – Rule 11.}

2. The provisional agenda of an ordinary meeting of the Parties shall include:
 - a) Items which have been requested by the Meeting of the Parties at an earlier meeting;

- b) Items proposed by a Contracting Party to the Agreement;
- c) Items associated with the budget of the meeting of the Parties for the next financial year, the report on the accounts for the last financial year and the auditors' report;
- d) Recommendations of the Scientific Committee pursuant to Article 7(1) of the Agreement;
- e) Recommendations of any subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties;
- f) Consideration of the special requirements of developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small-island developing States, [pursuant to article 13 of the Agreement; and]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Cook Islands to develop revised language.}

- g) Any other items which the Chairperson or the Executive Secretary considers are necessary to put before the Meeting of the Parties.
3. [A Contracting Party, the Chairperson or Executive Secretary may, at least 30 days before the date fixed for the opening of an ordinary meeting request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such a request shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item. Such items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be communicated by the Executive Secretary to all Contracting Parties and to observers referred to in rule 19 at least 20 days before the opening of the ordinary meeting.]

[Rule 10 – Agenda for Extraordinary meetings]

[The provisional agenda for an extraordinary meeting of the Parties shall include only those items proposed for consideration in the request for holding the extraordinary meeting.]

[Rule 11 – Meeting preparations]

- 1. [The Executive Secretary shall:]
 - a) [Make all necessary arrangements for each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;]
 - b) [Issue invitations to all such meetings to Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities and to observers referred to in rule 19;]
 - c) [Take all the necessary steps to carry out the instructions and directions given to him or her by the Chairperson on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties.]

[Part VI – Conduct of Meetings]

[Rule 12 – Adoption of agenda]

[At the beginning of the meeting, the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda and any supplementary items. The Meeting of

the Parties may, in urgent circumstances, decide to place additional items of an important or urgent character on the agenda at any time during the meeting/immediately prior to the adoption of the agenda.]

[Rule 13 – Taking of decisions]

1. [Each Contracting Party shall be entitled to one vote.]
2. [A simple majority of Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum.]
3. [The Chairperson shall put questions and proposals requiring decisions to all Contracting Parties present and voting at the Meeting of the Parties.]
4. [For the purposes of these rules, the phrase ‘present and voting’ means Contracting Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Contracting Parties who abstain from voting on a particular decision shall be considered as not voting.]
5. [Decisions shall be taken according to the following provisions:]
 - a) [Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties on matters of substance shall be taken by consensus. Article 8(1) of the Agreement defines consensus to mean ‘the absence of any formal objection made at the time a decision is taken’. The question of whether a matter is one of substance shall be treated as a matter of substance.]
 - b) [Decisions on matters other than those referred to in paragraph (a) shall be taken by a simple majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting.]

{To be considered further intersessionally.}

6. [Decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties shall become binding on all Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities [90] days after the date the decision was transmitted by the Executive Secretary in accordance with rule 17.]
7. [Votes shall be taken by show of hands, unless a Contracting Party requests that the vote be taken by a roll call or secret ballot and this request is supported by at least one other Contracting Party.]

[Rule 14 - Intersessional decision-making]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has expressed some doubts about the principle of intersessional decision-making on matters of substance, but has noted it may be useful for IUU listing. This rule will need further consideration.}

1. [When necessary, a matter may be decided during the period between meetings by electronic voting via the Internet (eg. email, secure website) or other means of communication (by ‘intersessional vote’). Normally, such means of taking decisions shall be applied to matters of procedure, such as in deciding to convene an extraordinary meeting (rule 4). However, in exceptional circumstances, where an urgent decision is necessary, such means of taking a decision may be applied to matters of substance.]

2. [The Chairperson may propose that a decision be put to an intersessional vote. The Executive Secretary shall transmit the proposal to each Contracting Party and participating fishing entities, if any.]
3. [If the Executive Secretary has not received an acknowledgement of receipt from Contracting Parties within one week of the date of transmittal, the Executive Secretary will retransmit the proposal for decision, and will use all reasonable means to ensure that it has been received.]
4. [Contracting Parties shall have 30 days to respond from the date of acknowledgement of receipt indicating whether they cast an affirmative vote, a negative vote or abstain from voting, unless a longer period is specified by the Executive Secretary.]
5. [If a Contracting Party who has received the proposal has not responded within the period specified, that Contracting Party shall be recorded as having abstained.]
6. [The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall promptly transmit the results of the vote to each Contracting Party and participating fishing entity.]
7. [If the proposal is adopted, the decision shall become binding on all Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities [90] days after the date the decision was transmitted by the Executive Secretary.]
8. [No proposal transmitted by the Executive Secretary for an intersessional vote shall be subject to amendment during the voting period.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has queried why amendments cannot be made.}

[Part VII – Suspension of Voting or Participation Rights]

[Rule 15 – Suspension of the exercise of voting or participation rights]

1. [A contributor to the budget of the Meeting of the Parties which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Meeting of the Parties shall not participate in the taking of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties if, at the time of the Meeting, the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years.]
2. [The Meeting of the Parties may, nevertheless, permit such a contributor to participate in the taking of decisions if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the contributor.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Australia suggests that the rules governing financial contributions of participating fishing entities be covered in the financial regulations. The rules of procedure anticipate that a participating fishing entity will be a budget contributor (see Annex 1(10)(c)).}

[Part VIII – Reports of Meetings and Notifications]

[Rule 16 – Reports of meetings]

1. [Reports of each ordinary and extraordinary Meeting of the Parties shall be drafted and distributed as soon as possible to all Official Contacts by the Executive Secretary. The Meeting of the Parties will adopt a provisional summary report prior to the close of that meeting. Representatives shall inform the Executive Secretary within thirty working days after the circulation of the provisional summary report of any changes they wish to have made.]
2. [Reports of the meetings of all subsidiary bodies of the Meeting of the Parties shall be circulated to the Contracting Parties and any participating fishing entities by the Executive Secretary. All such subsidiary bodies will adopt a provisional summary report prior to the close of that meeting.]
3. [Following the ordinary Meeting of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall publish and distribute an official report of the Meeting of the Parties, taking into account any changes proposed by representatives that have not been objected to, in accordance with article 9(a) and article 14 of the Agreement.]

[Rule 17 – Notification of decisions]

[The Executive Secretary shall communicate the text of all decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to article 8 of the Agreement to all Contracting Parties to the Agreement, participating fishing entities and to observers referred to in rule 19, within seven working days following the adoption of such a decision.]

[Part IX - Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties]

[Rule 18 – Participation of cooperating non-Contracting Parties]

1. [Each year, the Executive Secretary shall invite all non-Contracting Parties who undertake fishing activities in the Agreement Area to cooperate with the Meeting of the Parties by acceding to the Agreement or, as the case requires, by applying to the Meeting of the Parties for the status of a cooperating non-Contracting Party.]
2. [Any State that receives such an invitation may apply to the Meeting of the Parties to be admitted in the capacity of a cooperating non-Contracting Party. Any applications for such admission should be received by the Executive Secretary at least [120/90/60/30] days before the ordinary Meeting of the Parties.]
3. [When submitting an application for admission in the capacity of a cooperating non-Contracting Party, the candidate State will give a formal written statement to the Meeting of the Parties of its commitment to:]
 - a) [Carry out the objectives of the Agreement;]
 - b) [Abide by conservation and management measures and all other decisions and resolutions adopted in accordance with the Agreement;]

- c) [Take appropriate action to ensure that its fishing activities do not diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and all other decisions adopted in accordance with the Agreement;]
 - d) [Transmit all data that the Contracting Parties are required to submit to the Meeting of the Parties; and]
 - e) [Negotiate with the Contracting Parties to develop any other criteria for its admission in the capacity of a cooperating non-Contracting Party specific to its situation.]
4. [Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to this Agreement whose vessels fish in the Area shall enjoy benefits, as determined by the Meeting of the Parties, from participation in the fishery commensurate with their commitment to comply with, and their record of compliance with, conservation and management measures in respect of relevant stocks of fishery resources including measures adopted by other organisations that have competence with respect to the management of shared fisheries resources.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU suggests that article 17(4) of the Agreement should not be repeated verbatim. EU suggests that a reference to article 17(4) of the Agreement should be included.}

5. [At each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, Contracting Parties to the Agreement may decide to set aside fishing opportunities for cooperating non-Contracting Parties to the Agreement.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has commented that the link between paragraphs 6 and 7 is not completely clear. What is intended by 'fishing opportunities' and 'catch limits'?}

6. [The commitments in paragraph 4(a) to (d), and any specific criteria determined by the Meeting of the Parties in negotiations with the applicant in accordance with paragraph 4(e), will form the basis of an Exchange of Letters between the applicant and the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties. Upon conclusion of the Exchange of Letters, the applicant will be admitted in the capacity of a cooperating non-Contracting Party of the Meeting of the Parties. The cooperating non-Contracting Party will reaffirm the commitments contained in the Exchange of Letters at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties.]
7. [A State that is admitted by the Meeting of the Parties as a cooperating non-Contracting Party will have the right to participate actively in ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties as an observer. The Meeting of the Parties may decide to restrict the participation of a cooperating non-Contracting Party to a particular agenda item.]
8. [At each ordinary meeting, the Meeting of the Parties will determine whether the State qualifies to retain its status of cooperating non-Contracting Party. In the event that a compliance monitoring system is adopted by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties will be subject to the same performance assessment as

Contracting Parties. Until such time as a compliance monitoring system is adopted, the Meeting of the Parties will evaluate the performance of the cooperating non-Contracting Party against the commitments set out in its Exchange of Letters with the Executive Secretary.]

[Part X – Observers]

[Rule 19 – Observers]

1. [In accordance with article 14 of the Agreement, the following may participate as observers to the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies:]
 - a) [Coastal States with waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area who are not Contracting Parties;]
 - b) [Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties whose vessels or nationals wish to undertake fishing activities in the Agreement Area or have fished in the Agreement Area in the last two years;]

{To be considered further intersessionally: EU to advise.}

- c) [The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations]
 - d) [The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission]
 - e) [Regional fisheries management organisations with competence over high seas waters adjacent to or overlapping the Agreement Area, and]
 - f) [Other intergovernmental organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Agreement]
2. [A non-governmental organisation concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Agreement who wishes to participate as an observer shall notify the Executive Secretary at least 50 days in advance of the meeting, together with an explanation of its interest in the work of the Meeting of the Parties. The Executive Secretary shall promptly notify Contracting Parties and participating fishing entities of the request. Any such non-governmental organisation shall be invited to participate as an observer unless a simple majority of the Contracting Parties objects to the request by notifying the Executive Secretary in writing at least 20 days before the opening of the meeting. Observer status shall remain in effect for future meetings unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.]

{‘Simple Majority’ to be considered further intersessionally: The EU has suggested that two Contracting Parties would be enough (consistent with their suggestion related to convening extraordinary meetings in Rule 2).}

3. [Observers may participate in the deliberations of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies at the discretion of the Meeting of the Parties but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions.]

4. [Observers may submit relevant documents to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Meeting of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies as information papers at the discretion of the Meeting of the Parties and shall be given timely access to all documents subject to any rules relating to the confidentiality of certain data and commercially sensitive information that the Meeting of the Parties may decide.]

[Part XI – Participation by Fishing Entities]

[Rule 20 – Participation by fishing entities]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has suggested that participating fishing entities should pay financial contributions.}

[Notwithstanding all other provisions of these rules, pursuant to article 15 of the Agreement, the rules governing the participation of fishing entities in ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies are set out in Annex I.]

[Part XII – Transparency]

[Rule 21 – Open and closed meetings]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has suggested that meetings of the yet to be established Administrative and Budget Committee should be restricted to those who pay. This should also be the case for discussions concerning the selection/appointment of the Executive Secretary.}

1. [Consistent with article 14 of the Agreement, ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies shall be open unless the Meeting of the Parties or the subsidiary body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that meetings be held in closed session.]
2. [When the Meeting of the Parties decides to hold a private meeting, it shall at the same time determine the scope of such a decision with respect to observers.]
3. [All decisions of the Meeting of the Parties taken at a closed session shall be announced at an early open meeting of the Parties. At the end of a closed meeting of a subsidiary body, the Chairperson of the subsidiary body may issue a communiqué through the Executive Secretary.]

[Part XIII – Rules of Procedure of Subsidiary Bodies]

[Rule 22 – Subsidiary Bodies]

1. [The Meeting of the Parties may determine the composition and terms of reference of any subsidiary body it may establish.]
2. [Subject to the provisions of the Agreement, each subsidiary body of the Meeting of the Parties may formulate and submit for approval by the Meeting of the Parties such rules as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of its functions.]
3. [Pending the approval of such rules and except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, these rules of procedure apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies, including the Scientific Committee and Compliance Committee.]

[Rule 23 – Scientific Committee]

1. [The Meeting of the Parties may establish a permanent Scientific Committee.
Should the Meeting of the Parties establish a permanent Scientific Committee, the following paragraphs of this rule shall apply until the Meeting of the Parties approves rules of the Scientific Committee pursuant to rule 22.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Australia to lead.}

[Representation]

2. [Each Contracting Party shall be entitled to appoint one representative with suitable scientific qualifications to the Scientific Committee who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.]
3. [The Scientific Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary to fulfil its functions.]

[3bis. The Scientific Committee may consider the advice of other scientists, experts and observers as may be required on an ad hoc basis. Such scientists, experts and observers may submit documents and participate in discussions on the questions for which they were invited, but will not participate in the taking of decisions.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Australia to lead.}

[Meetings]

4. [Regular meetings of the Scientific Committee normally shall be held once a year prior to the Meeting of the Parties, unless the Scientific Committee decides otherwise.]

[Functions]

5. [The functions of the Scientific Committee are set out in article 7(1)(a) of the Agreement.]
6. [The Scientific Committee shall provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on the basis of the general principles set out in article 4 of the Agreement.]

[Conduct of business]

7. [Scientific recommendations and advice to be provided by the Scientific Committee pursuant to the Agreement shall normally be determined by consensus.]
8. [Where consensus cannot be achieved, the Scientific Committee shall set out in its report all views advanced on the matter under consideration.]
9. [Reports of the Scientific Committee to the Meeting of the Parties shall reflect all the views expressed at the Scientific Committee on the matters discussed.]
10. [If a Contracting Party or group of Contracting Party in the Scientific Committee so wishes, additional views of that Contracting Party or group of Contracting Parties on any particular questions may be submitted directly to the Meeting of the Parties.]

11. [Where the Scientific Committee takes decisions (for instance, to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson), it will do so by consensus, in accordance with article 8 of the Agreement and rule 13.]

[Part XIV – Amendment of the Rules of Procedure]

[Rule 24 – Method of amendment]

[These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties, by consensus.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: Contracting Parties to decide on a timeframe.}

[ANNEX I]

[RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF FISHING ENTITIES]

{To be considered further intersessionally: The EU has suggested that Annex I will need to have rules concerning financial contribution obligations for fishing entities.}

1. [Any fishing entity whose vessels have fished or intend to fish for fishery resources in the Agreement Area will be a 'participating fishing entity' thirty (30) days from the receipt by the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties of a written instrument by a representative of the fishing entity expressing its firm commitment to be bound by the terms of this Agreement.]
2. [The written instrument referred to in paragraph (1) above shall be in the form set out in Annex II.]
3. [A participating fishing entity has the right to be present and speak at ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and to receive all communications in respect of those meetings.]
4. [A participating fishing entity shall be represented at ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Parties by one designated representative who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers.]
5. [As soon as possible after a fishing entity becomes a participating fishing entity, it shall notify the Executive Secretary of one or more Official Contacts who shall, for the purposes of official communications about matters relating to the implementation of the Agreement, including all notifications, invitations and communications made pursuant to these rules, be the official points of contact for that fishing entity.]
6. [Participating fishing entities will not have rights which are inconsistent with their status (such as being elected Chairperson or being counted towards a quorum).]
7. [Participating fishing entities whose vessels fish in the Area shall enjoy benefits from participation in the fishery commensurate with their commitment to comply with, and their record of compliance with, conservation and management measures in respect of the relevant stocks of fishery resources.]
8. [At each ordinary Meeting of the Parties, Contracting Parties to the Agreement may decide to set aside fishing opportunities for participating fishing entities.]
9. [In deciding upon a total allowable catch and its allocation, the Meeting of the Parties may negotiate catch limits for participating fishing entities referred to in paragraph 7 above. Participating fishing entities shall abide by any negotiated limit.]

{To be considered further intersessionally: See EU's comments on rule 18 paragraphs 6 and 7.}

10. [Consistent with their full participation in ordinary and extraordinary meetings of Parties, participating fishing entities would participate in the Contracting Parties' deliberations to reach consensus. Participating fishing entities' views would be

properly considered and taken into account in reaching any decision. Seeking consensus will be especially important in decisions of economic significance to participating fishing entities such as:]

- a) [decisions on allocation of total allowable catch or total level of fishing effort in accordance with article 6(2) of the Agreement;]
 - b) [decisions by Contracting Parties to set aside fishing opportunities for participating fishing entities;]
 - c) [decisions on the scale of assessments, where a participating fishing entity makes independent and voluntary contributions to the budget to fund the conduct of the Meeting of the Parties and the exercise of its functions.]
11. [Where consensus could be reached but for the views of a participating fishing entity on decisions of economic significance to that entity, such a participating fishing entity may request an additional period of time of up to twelve hours on the affected agenda item for consultation. Notwithstanding this paragraph, a participating fishing entity could not block consensus.]
12. [At each ordinary meeting, the Meeting of the Parties will determine whether a fishing entity qualifies to retain its status of participating fishing entity. In the event that a compliance monitoring system is adopted by Contracting Parties, participating fishing entities will be subject to the same performance assessment as Contracting Parties. Until such time as a compliance monitoring system is adopted, the Meeting of the Parties will evaluate the performance of the participating fishing entity against the commitments set out in the written instrument referred to in paragraph (1) above.]

{‘Each’ To be considered further intersessionally: The EU suggests that it might be quite onerous to reassess the status of participating fishing entities every meeting.}

[ANNEX II]

[ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF FISHING ENTITIES]

[Considering that the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (the 'Agreement') was signed in Rome on 29 December 2006, and entered into force on 21 June 2012;]

[Noting that article 15 of the Agreement permits a fishing entity to deliver a written instrument to the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties expressing its firm commitment to be bound by the terms of this Agreement;]

[The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement **HEREBY INVITES** [name of fishing entity], as a fishing entity, and [name of fishing entity] **HEREBY DECLARES:**]

- (a) [Its firm commitment to be bound by the terms of this Agreement, and to participate in ordinary meetings of the Parties, in accordance with the Agreement and the rules of procedure;]
- (b) [That all domestic legal requirements have been fulfilled to enable [name of fishing entity] to implement its obligations under this Agreement]

[IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised to that effect, have appended their signature hereto.]

[DONE at [insert place] this [insert date] day of [insert month, year]. The original text of this Arrangement shall be delivered to the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties and then deposited in the treaty archives of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Chairperson will direct that a certified copy of this Arrangement be circulated to [name of fishing entity] and to all Contracting parties to the Agreement.]

For [fishing entity]:

For the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement:

Appendix H – Update from the IOTC regarding SIOFA



Status report on the data situation with regards to the SIOFA

1. Background

At the Fourth Intergovernmental Consultation on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, held on 12-16 July, 2004, in Seychelles, the Consultation adopted a Resolution on Data Collection concerning the High Seas in the Southern Indian Ocean.

The Resolution called upon all States, regional economic integration organisations and fishing entities that have participated in the Inter-Governmental Consultations or that have carried out fishing activities in the high seas in the Southern Indian Ocean to:

- a) collect current and future data in respect of their flag vessels fishing in the high seas in FAO statistical area 51 and 57 (the Area) for non-tuna fisheries resources.
- b) consistent with national legislation, provide catch and effort data (in a specified format), where possible from 1 January 2003, to the Inter-governmental Consultation three months prior to its next meeting
- c) secure historical catch and effort data concerning fishing activities for non-tuna species in the Area undertaken by their flag vessels or vessels previously flagged to their State and Member States.

The Resolution further called upon States, regional economic integration organisations and fishing entities whose ports are used to land or tranship non-tuna fishery resources caught in the Area, consistent with national legislation, to collect:

- a) current and future data in respect of such landings or transhipments
- b) historical data in respect of landings and transhipments.

The Chairperson of the 4th Inter-governmental Consultation was requested to, through appropriate channels, request the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Secretariat to receive and retain the information provided to the Consultation.

At its Ninth Annual Session, held in December 2005, Seychelles, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission considered and agreed that due to the relatively low volume of data and minimal resource implications for the Secretariat, it could host SIOFA's database.

2. Arrangement for receiving SIOFA data

The Compliance Section of the IOTC Secretariat has been assigned the responsibility for receiving and acknowledging reception of SIOFA data. No arrangements have been made to process data received as no database for this purpose has been provided to the IOTC. Therefore, messages, and their contents, that are received, are securely stored in the IOTC's data repository (Datacentre Server) and are backed up following the IOTC protocol.

3. Available catch and effort data

Our record indicates that only two States, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and one regional economic integration organisations, the European Union, have submitted catch and effort data to the IOTC Secretariat. These are summarised below.

- a) The European Union has provided only one report for the first quarter of 2009. A catch of 186 Mt was realized over the three months period by one vessel. The species caught were composed of deep-water crabs, kitefin sharks, deep water cod (Moras) and other mixed species (not identified). All catches were realised in FAO Area 51.
- b) Japan has provided one report, which span the years 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2005. Two vessels were active in 2001 and only one vessel was active in the other years. In 2002 the vessel operated in both FAO Area 51 and 57, and for the other years, operations were limited to FAO Area 51 only. The average yearly catches over the four year period was 1,234 Mt. Efforts have been reported in number of tows and hours of tows for some years, while in other years it has been reported as number of hooks set.
- c) The Republic of Korea has provided haul by haul data for 12 trips undertaken by five vessels. In total, approximately 1,787 Mt of deep-water species were caught during those twelve trips, which were undertaken in the period August 2009 to June 2012.

The Republic of Korea has also provided the IOTC Secretariat with the details pertaining to the five vessels that have operated in the SIOFA Area.

Entry and Departure reports for the fleet of the Republic of Korea that are engaged in fishing for species covered by the Agreement are being received on a regular basis by the IOTC Secretariat since May 2011.

Appendix I – Summary of the Decisions Adopted at the First Meeting of the Parties to SIOFA

Agenda Item 1 - Election of Chair for the meeting

The Meeting of the Parties elected Dr. Ilona Stobutzki, representative of Australia as Chairperson of the first meeting of the Parties.

Agenda Item 1(a) – Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting of the Parties adopted the agenda, with amendments.

Agenda Item 1(b) – Meeting arrangements

No decisions adopted.

Agenda Item 2 – Secretariat

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that in the interim, the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties will also provide secretariat services until long-term arrangements are agreed by Contracting Parties. Secretariat services will transfer to the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties at the point the meeting record of the last meeting is adopted. Any costs associated with the provision of secretariat services will be borne by the host Contracting Party.

Agenda Item 2(a) – Possible location arrangements

Refer to Agenda Item 2(a)(i).

Agenda Item 2(a)(i) – Cost benefits analysis

Mauritius indicated interest in hosting a standalone secretariat for SIOFA. Mauritius agreed to report back with a costed proposal for consideration at the next Meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the CCAMLR Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the CCAMLR Secretariat. Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the SPRFMO Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA Secretariat services with the SPRFMO Secretariat. If the SPRFMO Secretariat is receptive to hosting SIOFA secretariat services, Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties authorised European Union to contact the IOTC Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the IOTC Secretariat. The European Union agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals from other Contracting Parties would also be welcomed.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that there is no preferred option at this time for the provision of secretariat services for SIOFA, and that all options will be considered.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow adequate time for consideration and to allow Contracting Parties to seek additional information if required.

At a minimum, secretariat services and associated functions must be professional, cost effective, flexible, transparent and confidential. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that all proposals for the provision of SIOFA secretariat services should include:

- a. ability to deliver functions prescribed in Article 9 of the Agreement and as follows:
 - i. Receiving and transmitting the official communications of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - ii. Facilitating the collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Agreement;
 - iii. Making all necessary arrangements for the ordinary meetings of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies where required;
 - iv. Preparing administrative and other reports for the meeting of the Parties, the Scientific Committee and any other subsidiary bodies established;
 - v. Having the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the meetings of the Parties;
 - vi. Administering and reporting to meetings of the Parties on financial and staffing resources;
 - vii. Preparing an annual report on the Secretariat's activities for the ordinary meeting of the Parties; and,
 - viii. Communicating with other relevant regional fisheries management organisations / arrangements.
- b. costings for facilities and personnel, based on the above functions and staffing levels of:
 - i. 0.5 full time equivalent Executive Secretary;
 - ii. 0.5 full time equivalent Data Manager; and,
 - iii. 0.5 full time equivalent Administration Officer.
- c. costings for establishing (if required) and hosting data collection, collation and database management. Costings of these services should be provided:
 - i. as standalone services; and,
 - ii. in combination with the other secretariat functions.

Agenda Item 2(b) – Functions and provision of services

Refer to Agenda Item 2(a)(i).

Agenda Item 3 – Drafting rules of procedure for SIOFA and subsidiary bodies

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia will progress the development of the draft Rules of Procedure in the intersessional period, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

Agenda Item 3(a) – Establishment of subsidiary bodies under the Agreement

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to establish a permanent Scientific Committee. The Meeting of the Parties agreed each Contracting Party will be entitled to appoint one representative with suitable scientific qualifications to the Scientific Committee who may be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers. The Scientific Committee will meet as often as may be necessary to fulfil its functions.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia and the Seychelles will develop Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee for consideration by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to adopt these Terms of Reference in the intersessional period. The Terms of Reference will include future priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Terms of Reference should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not more than four months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months with a view to adoption of the Terms of Reference by Contracting Parties within the following month.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that once the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee have been adopted, the Scientific Committee will be constituted in accordance with paragraph 14 as soon as practicable.

Agenda Item 4 – Financial matters

Refer to Agenda Item 4(a).

Agenda Item 4(a) – Drafting rules and regulations concerning financial management

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to develop financial regulations and a budget contribution formula to assess annual contributions. France and Mauritius volunteered to progress the development of draft financial regulations to include options for a budget contribution formula, to be considered by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period, with a view to adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties also agreed the financial arrangements need to be equitable, transparent and affordable and, supported by robust systems. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should draw on the SPRFMO financial regulations as a model. Potential options for non-Contracting Party and other stakeholder contributions should also be explored. Options for interim financial arrangements (from the second meeting of the Parties until agreed otherwise) should also be provided for consideration, if required.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

Agenda Item 4(b) – Provisional draft budget for first financial period

No decisions adopted.

Agenda Item 4(c) – Annual member contributions

No decisions adopted.

Agenda Item 5 – Progressing conservation and management measures

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that, until the SIOFA Rules of Procedure are adopted, Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to temporary conservation and management measures (CMM) in the intersessional period, including but not limited to:

- a. deepsea gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets;
- b. protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems; and,
- c. constraints on the deepsea trawl fishery.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed all temporary measures should include:

- a. a mechanism and timeframe for review, including advice provided by the Scientific Committee when established;
- b. a date upon which they will come into force after adoption by Contracting Parties; and,
- c. a requirement for Contracting Parties to report on their implementation of the measure.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that should a Contracting Party wish to propose temporary measures, that Contracting Party will propose a timeframe for the circulation, comment and possible adoption of the temporary measures being proposed, unless already agreed to by Contracting Parties. This timeframe is to be agreed by consensus by all Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 5(a) – UNGA Fisheries Resolution 61/105 (including subsequent measures) on VMEs and bottom fisheries

The Meeting of the Parties agreed there was a need to consider giving effect to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 (2009) and 66/68 (2011) prior to the next meeting of the Parties.

Noting this, Cook Islands agreed to draft proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures and to circulate these to Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties in the intersessional period for their consideration. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that draft proposals should be circulated not more than two months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months and with a view to adoption by consensus by Contracting Parties within the following month.

Agenda Item 5(b) – Arrangements for deepwater and pelagic gillnets

Refer to Agenda Item 5.

Agenda Item 5(c) – Arrangements for pelagic fisheries

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their past and current fishing activities relating to small pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area.

Agenda Item 5(d) – Treatment of SIODFA voluntary closures

No decisions adopted.

Agenda Item 6 – Other management measures

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide each meeting of the Parties with a report on their fishing activities in the SIOFA Area and measures they have taken to implement temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 6(a) – Scientific data standards, confidentiality, submission and management

Refer to Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 6(b) – MCS measures: VMS, observer programs, port state measures, etc

The Meeting of the Parties agreed to commence intersessional discussions on the development of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures. These discussions are to be led by the European Union.

Agenda Item 6(c) – IUU fishing

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the European Union will develop a discussion paper on the process for listing vessels suspected of conducting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that this paper should give consideration to establishing mechanisms to identify vessels authorised to operate in the SIOFA Area, including the establishment of a SIOFA registry of authorised vessels. This paper is to be circulated to Contracting Parties in the intersessional period for consideration.

Agenda Item 7 – Provision of scientific advice

The Meeting of the Parties agreed the Scientific Committee be tasked with developing:

- a. draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee;
- b. a draft work plan identifying priority scientific work. This work plan should include, but is not limited to:
 - i. development of scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, using the SPRFMO scientific data standards as a model;
 - ii. identification and distribution of vulnerable marine ecosystems;
 - iii. determination of the state of play of current fishing activities for both bottom and pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area;
 - iv. determination of requirements for stock assessments for deepsea fisheries;
 - v. determination of the impacts of fishing on associated and dependant species, in particular deepsea sharks and seabirds;
 - vi. provide scientific advice to assist the review of temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure and work plan, should be circulated to Contracting Parties not less than 60 days prior to the next meeting of the Parties, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

Agenda Item 8 – Other business

Agenda Item 8(a) – Current fishing in the SIOFA Area

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that each Contracting Party is to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their flagged vessels' fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed Australia would develop a draft report template and will circulate this to Contracting Parties for their consideration prior to finalisation.

Agenda Item 8(b) – Status of ratifications/accessions to SIOFA

The Meeting of the Parties agreed that signatory Parties will be provided with a copy of the Report of the first meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties also agreed to extend an invitation to signatory Parties, to the next meeting of the Parties.

Agenda Item 9 – Date and location of next meeting

The Meeting of the Parties accepted the generous offer of Mauritius to host the second meeting of the Parties in March 2015. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the costs of the second meeting of the Parties would be borne by the host Contracting Party.

Appendix J – Summary of Tasks Agreed to by Contracting Parties at the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Completion Date	Task	Responsibility	Agenda Item
As soon as practical following the adoption of the Report of the first meeting of the Parties	Provide signatory Parties with a copy of the Report of the first meeting of the Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 8(b)
From the date on which the Report of the first meeting of the Parties is adopted to the date on which the Report of the second meeting of the Parties is adopted	Provide secretariat services to Contracting Parties to the Agreement	Mauritius	Agenda Item 2
19 December 2013	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties, draft proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Cook Islands	Agenda Item 5(a)
19 February 2014	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Seychelles and Australia	Agenda Item 3(a)
19 February 2014	Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties to consider and provide comments to the Cook Islands on the draft proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures	All Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties	Agenda Item 5(a)
19 March 2014	Contracting Parties to adopt temporary bottom fishing measures	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 5(a)
19 April 2014	Contracting Parties to consider and provide comments to Australia and the Seychelles on the draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 3(a)
19 May 2014	Contracting Parties to adopt Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 3(a)

Completion Date	Task	Responsibility	Agenda Item
As soon as practicable following the adoption of Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee (19 May 2014)	Each Contracting Party to appoint one representative with suitable scientific qualifications to the Scientific Committee	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 3(a)
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a costed proposal for the hosting of SIOFA secretariat services by Mauritius, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Mauritius	Agenda Item 2(a)(i)
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a costed proposal for the co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the CCAMLR Secretariat, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 2(a)(i)
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a costed proposal for the co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the SPRFMO Secretariat, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 2(a)(i)
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a costed proposal for the co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the IOTC Secretariat, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	European Union	Agenda Item 2(a)(i)
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, draft Rules of Procedure, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 3
1 October 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, draft financial regulations (to include options for: a budget contribution formula; non-Contracting Party and other stakeholder contributions; and, interim financial arrangements), for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	France and Mauritius	Agenda Item 4(a)
1 December 2014 ¹	Contracting Parties to consider and provide comments to Australia on the draft Rules of Procedure	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 3

¹ This date is based on the assumption that the second meeting of the Parties may be held at any time from 1 March 2015.

Completion Date	Task	Responsibility	Agenda Item
1 December 2014 ¹	Contracting Parties to consider and provide comments to France and Mauritius on the draft financial regulations	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 4(a)
31 December 2014 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, draft work plan and Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee, for consideration by Contracting Parties	Scientific Committee	Agenda Item 7
30 January 2015 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a revised draft Rules of Procedure, for consideration by Contracting Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 3
30 January 2015 ¹	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a revised draft financial regulations, for consideration by Contracting Parties	France and Mauritius	Agenda Item 4(a)
Intersessional period – sufficient time should be provided to allow non-Contracting Parties to prepare reports	Send a request, to all relevant non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area, to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their past and current fishing activities relating to small pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area	Mauritius	Agenda Item 5(c)
Intersessional period – sufficient time should be provided to allow non-Contracting Parties to prepare reports	Send a request, to all relevant non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area, to provide each meeting of the Parties with a report on their fishing activities in the SIOFA Area and measures they have taken to implement temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties	Mauritius	Agenda Item 6
Intersessional period – discussions should happen sufficiently in advance of the second meeting of the Parties to allow time for Contracting Parties to work through issues and develop draft measures if considered appropriate	Lead discussions, with all Contracting Parties, on the development of monitoring, control and surveillance measures	European Union	Agenda Item 6(b)

Completion Date	Task	Responsibility	Agenda Item
Intersessional period – the paper should be circulated sufficiently in advance of the second meeting of the Parties to allow time for Contracting Parties to work through issues and develop draft measures if considered appropriate	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, a discussion paper on the process for listing vessels suspected of conducting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area, for consideration by Contracting Parties	European Union	Agenda Item 6(c)
Intersessional period – the draft template should be circulated sufficiently in advance of the second meeting of the Parties to allow time for Contracting Parties to comment, noting other tasks generally allow two months for comment	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, draft report template for Contracting Parties to report on their flagged vessels' fishing activities in the SIOFA Area, for consideration and comment by Contracting Parties	Australia	Agenda Item 8(a)
Intersessional period – the draft template should be circulated sufficiently in advance of the second meeting of the Parties to allow time for Contracting Parties to comment, noting other tasks generally allow two months for comment	Contracting Parties to consider and provide comments to Australia on the draft report template	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 8(a)

Completion Date	Task	Responsibility	Agenda Item
Intersessional period – the final template should be circulated sufficiently in advance of the second meeting of the Parties to allow time for Contracting Parties to prepare reports	Circulate, to all Contracting Parties, the final report template, for Contracting Parties' use	Australia	Agenda Item 8(a)
Intersessional period – following a decision being made on the date for the second meeting of the Parties	Extend an invitation to signatory Parties, to the next meeting of the Parties	Mauritius	Agenda Item 8(b)
Second meeting of the Parties ²	All Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their past and current fishing activities relating to small pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area	All Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area	Agenda Item 5(c)
Second meeting of the Parties ²	All Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide each meeting of the Parties with a report on their fishing activities in the SIOFA Area and measures they have taken to implement temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties	All Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area	Agenda Item 6
Second meeting of the Parties ²	All Contracting Parties to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their flagged vessels' fishing activities in the SIOFA Area, using the final report template circulated by Australia	All Contracting Parties	Agenda Item 8(a)
March 2015 ²	Host the second meeting of the Parties	Mauritius	Agenda Item 9

² The date for the second meeting of the Parties is yet to be decided.