

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 6th Meeting of the Parties
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Pearle Beach Resort & Spa conference centre, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

MoP6-Doc14

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON STAFF RESOURCES AND SECRETARIAT
ACTIVITIES

Relates to agenda item: 13.3

Proposal ☐ Working Paper ☐ Information Paper ☐ Other Document ☒

SIOFA SECRETARIAT

Abstract

In accordance with RoP Rule 8 f) and 8 g), this paper provides an annual report from the Secretariat on staffing and activities for the sixth ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

This report covers the period between MoP5 (July 2018) to MoP6 (July 2019).

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON STAFF RESOURCES AND SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

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STAFF RESOURCES

The Secretariat staff currently consists of 1 full time Executive Secretary post and a 75% FTE Data Manager post.

Executive Secretary

The contract of the current Executive Secretary's will end 31st August 2019. Recruitment for a new Executive Secretary is in process. Interviews of three shortlisted candidates are due to take place during the MoP6 meeting.

Data Manager

The Data Manager post commenced 15 January 2018. The post is currently 75% of a full-time equivalent post.

The term is for two years with the possibility of renewal on 14th January 2020. The Data Manager performs all functions requested of him and despite being part-time status is always available when needed. The Executive Secretary strongly recommends the renewal of this contract.

SECRETARIATS ACTIVITIES

This report provides a summary of the main activities of the Secretariat since the fifth ordinary Meeting of the Parties which was held in June 2018.

Management of SIOFA Secretariat

The Secretariat performs functions and duties as prescribed by the Meeting of the Parties and as are listed in Rule 8 of the SIOFA Rules of Procedure relating to Secretariat's functions and duties. SIOFA does not employ any administrative assistance and as such all administrative duties are met by the Executive Secretary.

Management of SIOFA Budget

The day to day management of the SIOFA budget appropriations adopted by the Meeting of the Parties is managed by the Executive Secretary. A complete and up to date filing system is maintained recording the expenditure of each appropriation or budget item. In addition to hard

copies, electronic copies of each invoice or expenditure is maintained. If at any time a CP requires an update regarding the expenditure of any budget item, details of expenditure can be provided by email.

Reunion based accountants Crowe Horwath have been engaged part-time to assist with SIOFA book-keeping. This is a service of 4 hours per month which is necessarily focused upon the completion of the annual Financial Report in preparation for audit.

The Secretariat has submitted 3 successful applications to the EU voluntary fund, drawing down EURO 42,673 with a further payment of EURO 11,367 pending processing of final claims, providing a total additional **EURO 54,040** to SIOFA reserves. These voluntary contributions are provided via a grant application which is a time-consuming process. The Secretariat would like to acknowledge and thank the assistance provided by SC Activity project managers in providing the details needed to complete each claim. Further details can be found in Table 2 of MoP6-Doc07 Secretariat Report on Financial Resources.

The bank balance of SIOFA is in good shape as it has been possible to make savings on many budgets. Appropriations remain available for expenditure up to 12 months after the year of allocation. At the end of this period any funds left unspent from each appropriation is transferred to a sub-account to build up a reserve. This reserve currently totals **EURO 185,046** and does not include an addition **EURO 72,998** of unspent 2018 funds due to be transferred to the reserve fund from 1st January 2020.

Budgets for meetings continue to present a challenge. Delegation numbers vary widely from 2 to 10+ persons. This makes setting accurate budgets difficult and this is made more difficult when the venue of the meeting is not known at the time of setting the budget, which is most often the case.

Full details regarding the financial resources of SIOFA and their management are provided in meeting document 'MoP6-Doc07 Secretariat Report on Financial Resources'.

SIOFA IUU Vessel List

During the intersessional period since MoP5, the Secretariat has achieved through intersessional decision procedures one amendment to the List resulting in the de-listing of two Comoros flagged vessels (Oct 2018) and a special cross listing procedure with GFCM, NPFC, SEAFO and SPRFMO which resulted in the incorporation of 100 vessels to the current SIOFA IUU Vessel List in April 2019.

Compliance Monitoring Scheme

In accordance with CMM 2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme the Secretariat has developed a CCP's Compliance Report (CCR) which was circulated 2nd March 2019. The Secretariat subsequently compiled the Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR) and made this available on the restricted part of CC3 Meeting page of the SIOFA website 9th June 2019 as presented in meeting document 'CC3-Doc10_Rev1 Draft SIOFA Compliance Report (dSCR)_CONFIDENTIAL'.

In accordance with CMM 2018/11 Compliance Monitoring Scheme, para 27 the Secretariat has, prior to the 2019 ordinary Meeting of the Parties, prepared a table outlining all of the obligations contained in the Agreement and SIOFA CMMs with which CCPs must comply. This has been provided

in working document 'CC3-Doc09 Table of SIOFA CMM and Agreement Obligations' circulated 8th June 2019.

SIOFA Procedure for Recruitment of Consultants

In 2018 a SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure was developed by the Secretariat considering input received via intersession exchange of emails between CPs. This was prepared to ensure a standardised, fair and transparent approach for the recruitment of consultants to be engaged to conduct specific activities for the Scientific Committee. At that time, it was requested by at least one CP, that there be an opportunity to review the procedure at the next ordinary Meeting of the Parties. This is presented in meeting document 'MoP6-Doc12 MoP6-Doc12 SIOFA Recruitment of Consultants'

Development of SIOFA Web site

The website is being continually developed to disseminate information and provide basic functions to SIOFA including sharing and storing of meeting documents. Public and restricted access options are available for distribution and storing of documents. A 'username' and 'password' necessary to access restricted documents has been provided to all Official Contacts. Anybody who has misplaced their login details may contact pierre@siofa.org.

The IUU webpage is being developed and includes an online version of the SIOFA IUU Vessel List which benefits from basic query functions <https://www.apsoi.org/mcs/iuu-vessels>

A section for 'SIOFA major fish species' is under development <http://www.apsoi.org/species-list>

A section entitled 'Internal Communication' accessible via login has been added. Under this section all SIOFA Circulars and mission reports are posted and are available to official contacts.

Logged-in official contact have the possibility to complete and submit: entry and exit reports, port entry denials, transshipments and transfers reports. Instructions and guidelines are being developed. Anyone interested to use this online option can contact pierre@siofa.org.

Collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Agreement

Currently 4 databases are being developed at the SIOFA Secretariat:

1. Datasets database. This database keeps track of the datasets sent to the Secretariat. It is used to assess the quality of the datasets and to start the processing of the fisheries data.
2. Vessel Catch and effort (tow-by-tow) database. The structure of this database has been improved its content updated as more data becomes available.
3. Summary catches database. This database holds lower definition fisheries data, it is also used when CP do not provide fine level (tow-by-tow) catch and effort data.
4. Entry and exit reports database

The Secretariat has developed spreadsheet templates to guide data submissions in line with the requirements of CMM 2017/02 Data Standards.

Organisation of each Meeting of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies

Since MoP5 the Secretariat has made all necessary arrangements for the following SIOFA meetings and production of each meeting report.

Protected Areas & Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG1)	18-19 March	Yokohama, Japan
Stock & Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG1)	20-22 March	Yokohama, Japan
Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC4)	25-29 March	Yokohama, Japan
Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC3)	27-29 June	Flic en Flac, Mauritius
Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6)	1-5 July	Flic en Flac, Mauritius

The cost of PAEWG1 was met by the FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project. These costs included the meeting venue and participation of 2 VME experts from Thailand and 5 International VME experts from New Zealand, Canada and FAO. The active contributions to the VME component of this meeting from these experts were invaluable to the progress made. This working group meeting would not have been possible without the support provided by FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project. The total cost including venue costs, expert travel and subsistence costs was approximately **EURO 19,500** and this was provided at no cost to the SIOFA budget.

The Secretariat would like to thank the delegation of Japan for hosting the two working group meetings and the fourth Scientific Committee meeting that took place in March 2019 and for covering the venue costs of SERAWG1 and SC4 meetings. The Secretariat would like to acknowledge the assistance managing these meetings.

The secretariat has been working with the host delegation of Mauritius to prepare the CC3 and MoP6 meetings being held in Flic en Flac, Mauritius. The Secretariat would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Mauritius.

The services of the lead rapporteur (Ms Jana Aker) for both CC3 and MoP6 has been kindly loaned to us from NAFO Secretariat with costs being met by FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project. This type of initiative facilitates the building and maintaining effective working relationships with other relevant regional fisheries management organisations. Through her role as lead rapporteur Jana is providing capacity building training for 3 trainee rapporteurs from Mauritius. It is hoped that this initiative is welcomed/supported by the MoP and that other such initiatives may be possible with other relevant organisations in the future.

Official Travel - Attendance at meetings of other organisations and with SIOFA CPs

Since the fifth ordinary Meeting of the Parties the Secretariat has attended the following meetings of other organisations.

Date/Location	Meeting	Benefits/Outcomes	Cost
07-13 July 2018 Rome, Italy	REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK Seventh Meeting (RSN7); and COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES Thirty Third Session (COFI33)	<p>COFI3 - COFI draws together a high concentration of international fisheries stakeholders and representatives providing a unique opportunity to network and conduct marginal meetings. The number of meetings held in the margins aimed specifically at progressing and developing activities directly benefiting SIOFA made attendance good value in terms of both time and financial cost.</p> <p>RSN7 - The RSN meeting is a valuable opportunity for networking and exchanging information on current challenges and emerging issues experienced by RFBs and share initiatives. SIOFA participation in the RSN process is recommended.</p> <p>FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project – Taking advantage of the presence of project managers and participating Secretariats, several meeting were held within the margins of COFI which concerning several FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project related activities/projects involving SIOFA. SIOFA engagement in the FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project has been beneficial ongoing engagement is recommended. See separate section on FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project for more details.</p> <p>SIOFA and SWIOFC Collaboration – It was possible to meet with World Bank and SWIOFish1 representatives in the margins of COFI. Exchanges were encouraging and positive about potential collaboration between the two organisations. Support of these representatives will no doubt facilitate and assist greatly any potential collaboration projects that may be developed.</p> <p>CCAMLR and SIOFA Cooperation – It was possible to meet with CCAMLR Executive Secretary in the margins of COFI. Exchanges were very positive and resulted in CCAMLR participation and very welcome contributions at PAEWG1 and SC4 meetings. Additionally, CCAMLR are due to present CCAMLRs Catch Documentation Scheme at CC3. SIOFA Secretariat looks forward to developing further cooperation with CCAMLR.</p> <p>For more details see '04 Official Travel Report 2018 JUL - RSN7 COFI33 Rome July 7-13 2018 Rev1' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non public part of the SIOFA website</p>	EURO 3,958
9-12 Oct 2018 Cape Town, SA	SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION Ninth Session	Attendance at this meeting gave the Executive Secretary the opportunity to deliver a presentation on SIOFA. This resulted in an increased understanding of the role of SIOFA and possible linkages with SWIOFC, and was received by SWIOFC Commission. There was general	EURO 2,601

		<p>agreement that areas of potential collaboration activities identified as;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on the transboundary demersal fishery resources of the Saya de Malha bank fisheries; 2. Activities aimed at fighting IUU fishing activities; and 3. Projects to promote the application of SIOFA CMMs; <p>could be of benefit to both organisations and there was support for these ideas to be further considered once funding possibilities were known</p> <p>As a result of this exchange SWIOFC has provided an information paper on Cooperation with the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) MoP6-INFO-07 to be presented under Agenda Item 14.1</p> <p>For more details see '05 Official Travel Report 2018 OCT - SWIOFC9 Oct 9-12 2018' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p>	
22 – 24 Oct 2018 BANGKOK, THAILAND	REGIONAL TRAINING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO DEEP-SEA FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (DEEP-SEA FISHERIES LAW IN PRACTICE)	<p>This capacity building course delivered by the FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project provided an excellent overview of the International Instruments relevant to Deep-Sea Fisheries and guidance how an effective National legal framework can be developed to ensure these are successfully implemented and enforced at National level.</p> <p>In addition to improving my own knowledge and understanding, through my participation I was able to advise/clarify current SIOFA measures and share relevant experience which assisted the learning of SIOFA Participants.</p> <p>This course provided capacity building training for 10 SIOFA CCP delegates. These comprised of 2 delegates from each of the following CCPs Comoros, Cook Islands, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Thailand.</p> <p>For more details see '06 Training Report 2018 Oct 22-24 - International Fisheries Law' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p>	Zero. Expenses were met by FAO
10- 12 Dec 2018 Johannesburg, South Africa	ABNJ Deep Seas Project Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Workshop	<p>The main aims of this capacity building course delivered by the FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project was;</p> <p>To evaluate existing MCS measures implemented by Angola, Comoros, the Cook Islands, Mauritius, Namibia, the Seychelles, South Africa and Thailand; and</p> <p>To identify activities to strengthen MCS and compliance for these countries in respect of their SEAFO and SIOFA obligations.</p> <p>The workshop provided an overview of the international framework for MCS and to detect,</p>	Zero. Expenses were met by FAO

		<p>deter and eliminate IUU fishing and SIOFA and SEAFO obligations.</p> <p>For SIOFA CCPS the focus of this exercise was on the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMM 2018/10 Monitoring; • CMM 2018/09 Control; • CMM 2017/08 Port Inspection; and • CMM 2017/07 Vessel Authorisation <p>SIOFA participants were tasked with producing a SIOFA statement on implementation of SIOFA MCS Measures and country specific list of capacity assistance needs. Each countries contributions are being compiled into an overview of SIOFA MCS requirements by FAO. This overview will be shared with SIOFA CCPs when available.</p> <p>I was able to facilitate delivery of the workshop by presenting an overview of SIOFA MCS obligations, leading the SIOFA group and providing advise/clarifications on current SIOFA measures.</p> <p>For more details see '07 Travel Report 2018 - FAO MCS Workshop 10-12 Dec' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p>	
<p>29 Nov – 1 Dec 2018</p> <p>Mahé, Seychelles</p>	<p>14TH WORKING PARTY ON DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION.</p>	<p>This mission conducted by the Data Manager addressed the MoP5 task for the Secretariat to look at the procedures for data reporting in other RFMOs (MoP5 report, para 69)</p> <p>The annual Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) addresses many items related to data; experience of the IOTC in this field is expected to be useful for the data manager to learn about specific issues and to improve SIOFA data management. Many of IOTC members are also contracting parties of SIOFA (AUS, EU, FRA, JAP, KOR, MUS, SEY, THA).</p> <p>SIOFA data manager visited IOTC Secretariat before this working party to meet with key staff to gain an understanding of procedures for data processing and reporting adopted by IOTC. An Overview of the data management at IOTC was provided covering the following elements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection - Data storage - Data analysis and reporting - e-PSM tool review <p>The main items addressed during the workshop were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report on IOTC data collection - National statistic systems - Review of data requirements in CMMS relevant to the WPDCS - Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) - Data dissemination <p>Conclusion/Outcomes</p>	<p>EURO 1,842</p> <p>This mission was paid for from Budget sub-item 1.12 Staff Training</p>

		<p>IOTC faces many challenges for the data collection due to various reasons.</p> <p>IOTC puts a lot of effort to improve the data collection mechanism within the CPs thank to local pilot projects and training programs.</p> <p>Data submitted into IOTC database is of variable quality and its utility must be limited.</p> <p>It is recommended that the recent IT developments performed by IOTC are closely investigated as these developments are made to be reusable and use generic technologies. It is likely SIOFA could re-use many of these new tools for its own data management procedures.</p> <p>This mission also allowed to establish several contacts with IOTC data people. Such contacts shall also be made with other RFMOs to compare and discuss technical solutions and help SIOFA in choosing and improving data related procedures.</p> <p>For more details see '08 SIOFA Training and Mission Report - IOTC WP on Data Collection_29 Nov-1 Dec 2018' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p>	
23-25 Jan 2019 Reunion	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Deep Seas Project Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting	<p>SIOFA Secretariat supported this meeting by identifying a suitable venue and with some logistics. Attendance at this meeting enabled the Executive Secretary to maintain contact with the FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Project in accordance with request made by SC3 and to communicate, exchange information and network with other relevant RFMOs.</p> <p>The Common Oceans ABNJ Deep Seas Project is funded by GEF and implemented by FAO and UN Environment. The partnership brings together a broad range of partners, including regional fisheries bodies responsible for the management of deep-sea fisheries, fishing industry partners, and international organizations to achieve sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).</p> <p>The project is comprised the following four components;</p> <p>Component 1 – Policy and legal Frameworks</p> <p>The Training on implementation of international policy and legal instruments that took place in Bangkok Oct. 2018 was delivered under this component</p> <p>Under this component has produced the following technical reports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A step-wise guide for the integration of international legal instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity in the ABNJ into national legislation • Review of International Legal and Policy Instruments related to Deep-sea Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ • VME Processes and Practices in the High Seas 	Zero

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two global reviews on the fisheries, biology, and management of alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>) and orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>) • An update to the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas <p>Component 2 – Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and enhancing conservation of components of EBSAs.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has been engaged to lead on a number of activities including an analysis of the risk of different fishing gears to biodiversity for SEAFO, SIOFA, and SPRFMO. Report to be made available to SIOFA as soon as completed.</p> <p>Component 3 – Improved planning and adaptive management for deep-seas fisheries in the ABNJ</p> <p>Activities of interest include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update to the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas. - Rights-based management. - SIOFA VME workshop (PAEWG1). - The Project has engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on the use of electronic monitoring systems (EMS) for deep-sea fisheries in the SIOFA area. To be completed. - A three-day Global DEEP SEA Symposium f 6-10 May 2019 in Rome. <p>Component 4 – Development and testing of a methodology for area based planning.</p> <p>A case study of regional are-based approaches was presented.</p> <p>In addition, the deep sea RFMOs in attendance took advantage to hold informal discussions on matters of mutual interest. Matters discussed were the possibilities for the project to support capacity building activities for each RFMO and how the different Secretariats may support each other. Through these discussions I gained the support of NAFO Exec Sec to provide rapporteur support and training for CC3 and MoP6.</p> <p>The Project will close operationally on 31 August 2019 and administratively on 31 December 2019. There is therefore scope to formulate another Common Oceans ABNJ Programme and projects under this entry point.</p> <p>For more details see '09 Official Meeting Report 2019 01 - FAO ABNJ PSC4_23-25 Jan 2019 Reunion' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p>	
10-12 April 2019 Rome, Italy	ABNJ Deep Sea Project Rights Based Management Workshop	<p>The meeting reviewed the potential importance of Rights-based Management of deep-sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), especially because of their features of relatively, low productivity limited sizes of stock resource and low sustainable yields relative to stock size, and vulnerable benthic habitat. Experience shows that rights-based management can incentivize sustainable resource use and</p>	Expenses were met by FAO

		<p>cooperation countering tendencies to excessive harvest rates and unnecessary adverse habitat impact. The workshop also considered the implications of this method of management from the perspective on the relevant international law and experience with application of rights-based management approaches for deep sea fisheries in the ABNJ.</p> <p>Conclusions/Considerations Rights-based management of fisheries may lead to a new form of quasi-property in international law, which, if it happens, could contribute towards mitigating the risk 'tragedy of the commons' in fisheries in the ABNJ. There may be considerable benefits from Parties establishing a working group to review the potential and implications of rights-based forms of management of SIOFA area fisheries.</p> <p>For more details see '10 Official Meeting Report 2019 APR - FAO Rights Based Management Workshop' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.</p> <p>Recently a summary report of the meeting was provided by FAO and has been provided meeting paper 'MoP6-INFO-10 ABNJ Deep Seas Project Workshop on rights-based management for deep-sea fisheries Summary of Conclusions'</p>	
7-9 May 2019 FAO Rome	ABNJ Deep Sea Conference	<p>SIOFA Acting Chair represented SIOFA at this high-level conference involving experts and stakeholders from across the High Seas sector as we move into the next phase of the Deep Seas Project.</p> <p>The Acting Chair presented a short lecture on the challenges of new RFMOs and take part in a panel discussion on High Seas Governance.</p> <p>The Acting Chair participated in a meeting of the Chairs of the four non-Tuna Deep Sea RFMOs assembled to discuss outcomes of the current ABNJ Deep Seas Project and possible project requests for the next phase of the ABNJ project.</p> <p>The Conference covered three broad themes:</p> <p>Theme 1: ABNJ Governance and Policy</p> <p>Theme 2: Deep-sea science and monitoring</p> <p>Theme 3: Deep Sea Management</p> <p>A comprehensive presentation of the EA-Nansen Marine Research Programme was provided which indicated that there are research opportunities for SIOFA within the EA-Nansen Marine Research Programme.</p> <p>In addition, the deep sea RFMOs in attendance held a formal meeting at the end of day two to discuss possibilities for the project to support capacity building activities for each RFMO and how the respective Secretariats may support each other leading into the next phase of the ABNJ project commencing in 2020.</p>	Expenses were met by FAO

		For more details see '11 Official Meeting Report 2019 SIOFA Chair - FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Conference' available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.	
10 – 12 June 2019 Cape town, SA	Science for Solutions: Bringing Stakeholders Together to Improve Ocean Planning and Governance in ABNJ of the South-East Atlantic and Western Indian Ocean	<p>Participation of the Executive Secretary at this meeting was an opportunity to promote the work of RFMOs by contributing to the plenary discussion and being available to answer questions and providing clarity to the role of SIOFA and RFMOs in the ABNJ in general. Many questions relating RFMO activities within the ABNJ were answered and this input was much appreciated by participants and workshop facilitators.</p> <p>It also provided opportunity to meet with people involved with organisations and projects based within the region relevant to SIOFA including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Nairobi Convention - STRONG SEAS PROJECT - Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) - Seychelles and Mauritius Joint Management Area <p><i>Seychelles and Mauritius Joint Management Area</i></p> <p>A short presentation of the Seychelles and Mauritius Joint Management Area on the Saya de Malha bank was provided.</p> <p>Focal activities listed did not specifically include fisheries but did include management of living marine resources.</p> <p>At an opportunity to ask questions I asked across the floor if it was possible to clarify if the intention is to manage the fish stocks in the water column above this Area and if it was known if any legal study reading this matter(as indicated by Mauritius at MoP5) had been produced and was available.</p> <p>It was not possible to get clarification regarding the intention to manage fish stocks or the production of a legal study.</p> <p>Mauritius was not represented at the meeting but I was able to speak to representatives of the Seychelles and Mauritius Joint Management Area who were very cooperative.</p> <p>It is believed that the communication submitted to the Secretariat by the Seychelles and Mauritius Joint Management Area (MoP6-INFO-05_Rev1 JC of the Extended Continental Shelf Mascarene Plateau Region) is not connected to the legal evaluation for Saya de Malha mention at MoP5 by the Mauritian delegation.</p> <p>It is understood that there will be a JMA meeting at the beginning of July and following contact made at this meeting, the matter (outlined in again MoP6-INFO-05_Rev1) will be discussed and outcome provided to SIOFA formally.</p> <p>For more details see '12 Official Meeting Report 2019 JUN - Ocean Planning in ABNJ' available to</p>	EURO 1,907.19

		Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.	
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Capacity Building

In addition to the above mentioned 'Regional Training on the Implementation of International Policy and Legal Instruments Related to Deep-Seas Fisheries and Biodiversity' and the 'Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Workshop' it was possible through FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project funding to send a colleague from the delegation of Thailand to attend the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management held in London, August 2018 and provide rapporteur training at CC3 and MoP6 for three colleagues from the delegation of Mauritius.

Through collaboration with the FAO ABNJ Project, SIOFA Secretariat in the past 12 months has been able to provide approximately 24 capacity building trainings at an total approximate cost of **EURO 50,300** relating to the cost of trainers and SIOFA participants travel and subsistence. Therefore in the past 12 months collaboration with FAO has enabled SIOFA to meet responsibilities provided under SIOFA Article 13 Special Requirements of Developing States, and in particular to provide financial assistance, totalling **EURO 50,300**, for human resource development related to many of the elements listed in SIOFA Article 13.4 <https://www.apsoi.org/node/3> at no cost to the SIOFA budget.

Additionally, in collaboration with FAO ABNJ Deep-Seas Project, the Secretariat was able to provide an opportunity for Chairperson training which was proposed to take place at the meeting venue prior to CC3. This training was designed to help address the lack of Chairperson nominees for SIOFA Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. Unfortunately owing to a lack of interest this training was not viable and had to be cancelled. Should the MoP consider that this course may be worthwhile reconsidering, the Secretariat can be instructed to research future opportunities to organise such capacity building training.

Official Travel Reports

Since MoP5, 9 official travel and training reports have been produced and circulated to SIOFA Official Contacts as follows:

- 04 Official Travel Report 2018 JUL - RSN7 COFI33 Rome July 7-13 2018 Rev1
- 05 Official Travel Report 2018 OCT - SWIOFC9 Oct 9-12 2018
- 06 Training Report 2018 Oct 22-24 - International Fisheries Law
- 07 Travel Report 2018 - FAO MCS Workshop 10-12 Dec
- 08 SIOFA Training and Mission Report - IOTC WP on Data Collection_29 Nov-1 Dec 2018
- 09 Official Meeting Report 2019 01 - FAO ABNJ PSC4_23-25 Jan 2019 Reunion
- 10 Official Meeting Report 2019 APR - FAO Rights Based Management Workshop
- 11 Official Meeting Report 2019 SIOFA Chair - FAO ABNJ Deep Seas Conference
- 12 Official Meeting Report 2019 JUN - Ocean Planning in ABNJ

All these reports are available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.

SIOFA Circulars

Circulars are used to issue requests and to distribute information to SIOFA Members. Since MoP5, 9 circulars have been produced and circulated to SIOFA Official Contacts covering the following subjects:

- SIOFA Circular 2018 05 - Alfonsino Scoping Study Consultant
- SIOFA Circular 2018 07 - Patagonian toothfish Scoping Study Consultant
- SIOFA Circular 2018 08 - SIOFA CMMs and Reporting Obligations
- SIOFA Circular 2018 09 - New Int. Legally Binding Instrument on BBNJ
- SIOFA Circular 2018 10 - SIOFA CMMs in French
- SIOFA Circular 2018 11 - Request for modification of IUU Vessel List Decision
- SIOFA Circular 2019 01 - SIOFA Chairperson
- SIOFA Circular 2019 02 - Intersessional IUU Vessel Cross-Listing
- SIOFA Circular 2019 03 - Intersessional IUU Vessel Cross-Listing_SPRFMO

All SIOFA Circulars are available to Official Contacts on the internal communication section of the non-public part of the SIOFA website.