

MoP6-WP01

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) 6th Meeting of the Parties
01-05 July 2019

Pearle Beach Resort & Spa conference centre, Flic en Flac, Mauritius

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Intercessional discussion on New Fisheries Report

(to be amended after the meeting on June 27th)

Relates to agenda item: 6

Proposal Working Paper Information Paper Other Document

Delegation of France Territoires

Abstract

The activity of the intercessional discussion on New Fisheries is based on the demand of MoP5 in points 66 and 67 of its report. This working document proposes a definition for new fisheries and for the footprint, on which new fisheries depends on, as well as indications on the interactions of new fisheries with exploratory fisheries and scientific campaigns.

MANDATE OF THE INTERSESSIONAL DISCUSSION:

The report of MoP5 states the following:

5.2 Definition for 'new fisheries

66. The Meeting of the Parties noted the good progress of the working group on defining 'new fisheries' and agreed that it should continue its work lead by France (Territories).

67. France (Territories) noted the interaction of this work with the draft CMM to regulate fisheries research, which may assist in defining 'scientific campaigns' but was not yet complete. It further noted that it was important to establish the SIOFA-wide footprint of fishing activities in the Agreement Area so that the picture of existing fisheries might help inform where new fisheries occur.

METHOD

The "New fishery working group" had exchanges by mail in 2019 and will meet on June 27th, 2019 to finalise its conclusions, as well as to discuss the EU proposal on new fisheries.

The result of 2018 and 2019 discussion, which are going to be discussed during that meeting, are as follows.

1. Definition of "new fisheries" (agreed before MoP 5)

For the purposes of this SIOFA BFIAS, the definition of "new fisheries" depends on the definition of the footprint:

'New fisheries' are defined as all bottom fishing activities for commercial purposes, which excludes scientific campaigns:

- outside existing bottom fishing footprint or,
- within existing bottom fishing areas when a new fishing method is to be used.

2. Definition and work plan on the footprint

Three bottom fishing footprints shall be established:

- (a) the Bottom Trawl Footprint;
- (b) the Midwater Trawl Footprint; and
- (c) the Bottom Line and Traps Footprint

Those footprints shall be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2020 in accordance with article 7 of CMM 2018-01.

This footprint shall be established by the Secretariat in accordance with article 13 of CMM 2018-01:

- with the data transmitted at the latest 30 days before the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2018, in accordance with article 13 of CMM 2018-01. Ulterior data or data which resolution is not compliant with article 13 of CMM 2018-01 will not be taken into account for the establishment of the footprint;
- on the basis of 20 minute resolution, even for finer scale data.

3. Relations with exploratory fisheries and scientific campaigns

Exploratory fisheries are part of new fisheries.

A separate CMM on scientific vessels or fisheries will deal with fisheries included in scientific campaigns.

Reference articles of CMM 2018-01

7. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2020, and thereafter whenever a substantial change to the fishery has occurred or new data has otherwise been provided to the Scientific Committee warranting changes, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on:

(a) an appropriate SIOFA bottom fishing footprint based on the data provided by CCPs to the Secretariat under paragraph 13; and

(b) a SIOFA Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment (SIOFA BFIA). The SIOFA BFIA shall take into account the activities of all fishing vessels to which this CMM applies that, at the time the SIOFA BFIA is prepared, are engaged in, or intending to engage in, bottom fishing within the agreed SIOFA bottom fishing footprint;

13. CCPs shall, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee in 2018, submit to the Secretariat:

(a) relevant data on the spatial extent of its historical bottom fishing effort in the Agreement Area expressed as grid blocks of at least 20 minute resolution or, if available, a finer scale; and

(b) any other data the Scientific Committee may consider to be useful in developing the SIOFA BFIA referred to in paragraph 7(b), including data relating to recorded encounters with VMEs or indicators of VMEs.