

Agenda

2nd Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee

13-17 March 2017, SIOFA Secretariat, C/O DAAF, Parc de la Providence, Saint-Denis, La Réunion

Meeting Room - Salle Vanille, Bâtiment B

Chair: Dr Ilona Stobutzki

The provisional agenda for the 2nd meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee has been developed to focus on the areas of work identified in SIOFA CMM 2016/01 and CMM 2016/02, the Scientific Committee Work Plan (MoP3 Annex G) and Research Plan (SC1 Annex G) and previous Ordinary Meetings Meeting of SIOFA and to meet the governance requirements set out in the Scientific Committee's terms of reference.

The agenda items 5 - 9 follow the Scientific Committee Work Plan and will be informed by the activities agreed in the Operational Plan (SC1 Annex O)

1. Opening

- 1.1 Opening statement from the Chair
- 1.2 Introduction of participants

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1 Adoption of the agenda
- 2.2 Confirmation of meeting documents
- 2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 2.4 Review of functions and terms of reference

3. Guide to interpret terminology used in Scientific Committee reports

The Meeting of the Parties, at the 3rd Ordinary Meeting in 2016 requested that the Scientific Committee develop a guide to assist the Meeting of the Parties to interpret the terminology used in its meeting reports to ensure that the nature of the advice provided by the Scientific Committee is clearly understood.

4. National Annual Reports

In accordance with paragraph 8 of CMM2016/02 each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide to the Scientific Committee an annual report. In accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2016/01 and Annex 1 thereof, each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall report in their National Report any VME encounter above the thresholds established under paragraph 11 of CMM 2016/01 to the Scientific Committee including action taken in respect of the relevant site.

5. Scientific data Standards

Including advice to the Meeting of the Parties on:

5.1 Guidelines for evaluating and approving electronic observer programs for scientific data collection

5.2 An appropriate spatial resolution for the collection and reporting of data to facilitate effective stock assessment.

5.3 SIOFA scientific database

6. Vulnerable marine ecosystems

Including advice to the Meeting of the Parties on:

6.1 Maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur, in the agreement area

6.2 Standard protocols for future protected areas designation (areas which should be closed to fishing)

6.3 Progress towards a bottom fishing assessment standard

6.4 Discussion on Benthic Protected Areas

7. Current and historical status of fishing activities

In accordance with paragraph 9 of CMM2016/02 each Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2017, historical catch, effort and if available, observer data from vessels flying their flag operating in the Agreement at any time during the period 2000-2015, and any previous years where available.

NOTE: The Secretariat urges timely submission of data by 31 January in order to enable development of the SIOFA database.

Each Contracting Party is requested to present a summary of data provided.

8. Stock assessments

At SIOFA 1, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that the SIOFA Scientific Committee should, as part of its work plan, determine requirements for stock assessments for deep sea fisheries.

8.1 Orange Roughy

Verbal Report of the Orange Roughy Acoustics Workshop, FAO-ROME, 30 Jan – 03 Feb 2017 tbc

8.2 Alfonsino

Information paper to be circulated – Global review of Alfonsino (Beryx spp.), their fisheries, biology and management FAO, 2012.

8.3 Patagonian Toothfish

8.4 Other species

8.5 Report on Australia's intent to convene a stock assessment framework (and VME impacts assessment framework) workshop in May 2017

9. Impacts of fishing on associated and dependent species

At SIOFA 1, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that the SIOFA Scientific Committee should, as part of its work plan, determine the impacts of fishing on associated and dependent species, in particular deep sea sharks and seabirds

9.1 Report on progress towards an ecological risk assessment for deepwater sharks in the SIOFA Area

10. Proposals to bottom fish in the Agreement Area in a manner at variance with Established Measures

In accordance with paragraph 20 of CMM 2016/01 a Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag shall submit to the Scientific Committee, at least 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee, a proposal to undertake that activity or activities.

11. Cooperation with other RFMOs and international bodies

In accordance Article 16 of the SIOFA Agreement which requires that Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, shall cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organizations in matters of mutual interest, in particular with the SWIOFC and any other regional fisheries management organization with competence over high seas waters adjacent to the Area.

11.1 FAO ABNJ Deep Seas project update

11.2 Draft Arrangement between SIOFA and CCAMLR to enhance the conservation and rational use of stocks and species of interest to both parties.

At the SIOFA SC1 the Scientific Committee requested that the SIOFA Secretariat or Scientific Committee Chair approach CCAMLR Secretariat and Scientific Chair to discuss collaborating on stock assessments for toothfish. At the 2016 annual meeting of CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XXXV) the Commission recommended that CCAMLR and SIOFA consider developing a formal arrangement to promote cooperation and collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

12. Scientific Committee Work Plan

12.1 Long term Research Plan

Review and updating if required

12.2 2017 – 2019 operational work plan and budget

Review and updating if required. Discussion on science budget to provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties.

13. Advice to the Meeting of Parties

14. Future meeting arrangements

The Scientific Committee is asked to agree to (approximate) dates and location for the 3rd meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee.

15. Other business

15.1 Transparency issues

16. Adoption of the meeting report

17. Close of meeting