

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific  
Committee

21-14 March 2015, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

SC-01-03 (01)

Scientific Committee work plan

*Relates to agenda item: 3*

Working paper  info paper

Secretariat

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**Abstract**

According to its terms of reference, the Scientific Committee is required to periodically provide a Scientific Work Plan which priorities and identifies its key work. The Work Plan will be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

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**Recommendations *(working papers only)***

- 1.** That the Scientific Committee develop a multi-year Scientific Work Plan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.
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## Scientific Work Plan

### ***Functions of the Scientific Committee***

Article 7 of the Agreement establishes a Scientific Committee whose functions are:

- to conduct the scientific assessment of the fishery resources and the impact of fishing on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area, and the results of relevant scientific research;
- to encourage and promote cooperation in scientific research in order to improve knowledge of the state of the fishery resources;
- to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of the conservation and management measures referred to in Article 6(1)(d);
- to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties for the formulation of measures regarding the monitoring of fishing activities;
- to provide scientific advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on appropriate standards and format for fishery data collection and exchange; and
- any other scientific function that the Meeting of the Parties may decide;

In developing advice and recommendations the Scientific Committee is required to take into consideration the work of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission as well as that of other relevant research organizations and regional fisheries management organizations.

### ***Preparation of a Scientific Work Plan***

At SIOFA 1, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that the Scientific Committee's work plan should include, but not be limited to:

- development of scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, using the SPRFMO scientific data standards as a model;
- identification and distribution of vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- determination of the state of play of current fishing activities for both bottom and pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area;
- determination of requirements for stock assessments for deepsea fisheries;
- determination of the impacts of fishing on associated and dependant species, in particular deepsea sharks and seabirds;
- provide scientific advice to assist the review of temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

Many of the papers presented to this Scientific Committee are relevant to this work plan.

The Scientific Committee may wish to consider developing a multi-year longer term work plan setting out the tasks required to progress work against each of these areas, its objectives, timeframes where possible and which Contracting Parties (and others, as appropriate) will participate in this work.

The Scientific Committee may also wish to consider whether additional areas of focus should be included on this work plan.

## ***Review***

As per the Scientific Committee terms of reference, the Scientific Work Plan shall be reviewed annual by the Scientific Committee and the Meeting of the Parties, amended as necessary.