



8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement  
(MoP8)

5-9 July 2021 (online)

Report on staff resources and Secretariat activities

*Relates to agenda item: 10.1*

Working paper  Info paper

## SIOFA Secretariat

---

### Abstract

In accordance with Rules of Procedure 8.1(f) and 8.1(g), this document provides an annual report from the Secretariat on staffing and activities from the seventh Meeting of the Parties in November 2020 to the eighth ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

Correspondence and routine tasks are not included in this report, which covers the period between MoP7 and MoP8.

---

---

### Recommendations

The MoP to note the Report.

---

8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

**SECRETARIAT REPORT ON STAFF RESOURCES AND SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES**

Table of contents

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON STAFF RESOURCES AND SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES.....	2
Introduction: .....	2
<b>I- UPDATES ON THE SIOFA AGREEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. SIOFA CCPs and signatories .....	3
2. SIOFA Observers: .....	3
3. SIOFA Officers: .....	4
<b>II- SECRETARIAT STAFF RESOURCES:.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Presentation of the current members:.....	4
1. Executive Secretary.....	5
2. Data Manager .....	5
3. Intern Assistant to the Secretariat.....	5
<b>III- SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Data-related activities: .....	5
2. Development of the SIOFA Website: .....	6
3. Preparation of the different SIOFA Meetings: Organisation of each Meeting of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies.....	6
3rd Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG3) .....	7
3rd Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG3) .....	7
4. Compliance Monitoring Scheme: CCPs Compliance Report and 5 <sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee (CC5):.....	7
5. 7th Meeting of the Parties: .....	8
7. SIOFA IUU Vessel List .....	8
8. 2020 William's Ridge Fishing Campaign: .....	9
9. Attendance at meetings of other organisations and with SIOFA CPs .....	9
10. Official Travel and associated Reports (2020-2021).....	11
12. SIOFA Intersessional decision .....	13

Introduction:

In accordance with the Rule of Procedure 8.1 f) and 8.1 g), this paper provides an annual report from the Secretariat on staff and activities conducted over the past year for the eighth ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

This report covers the period between MoP7 and MoP8.

## I- UPDATES ON THE SIOF AGREEMENT

### 1. SIOFA CCPs and signatories

The Contracting Parties to the SIOFA are:

- Australia
- People's Republic of China (since October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019)
- The Cook Islands
- European Union
- France (on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories)
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Thailand

The SIOFA has one Participating Fishing Entity:

- Chinese Taipei

The SIOFA has also four signatories

- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- New Zealand

The SIOFA has one cooperating non-Contracting Party:

- The Union of Comoros

### 2. SIOFA Observers:

The SIOFA observers since the MoP7:

As long-standing observers:

- The United States of America
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO / ABNJ/ RSN / FIRMS)
- The Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC),
- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, (ACAP),
- Deep-Sea Conservation Coalition. (DSCC)
- Southern Indian Ocean Deep-sea Fishers' Association (SIODFA)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF).
- 
-

### 3. SIOFA Officers:

**Table 1: Summary table of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SIOFA**

Body	Chair	Vice-Chair	Term in office
<b>Meeting of the Parties</b>	Kerrie Robertson	Chumnarn Pongsri	23 July 2020 – 22 December 2020
	Chumnarn Pongsri	Vincent Lucas replaced by Roy Clarisse on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020 – MoP 8
<b>Scientific Committee</b>	Ilona Stobutzki	Tom Nishida	8 July 2016 -30 July 2020
	Alistair DUNN		28 October 2020 - MoP 8
<b>Compliance Committee</b>	Johnny Louys		5 July 2019 – current
<b>PAEWG</b>	Patrice Pruvost		current
<b>SERAWG</b>	Tom Nishida	Lee Georgeson (end in January 2021)	current

Ms. Kerrie Robertson ended her term as Chairperson on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, handing over the position to Mr. Pongsri the day after (Circular 2020/29).

#### Recruitment of a Chairperson of the Scientific Committee:

Dr Ilona Stobutzki left her position as Chairperson of the Scientific Committee after the conclusion of SC4 on 31 July 2020.

In the absence of a candidate from a Contracting Party, on 14 September 2020, the Secretariat transmitted an intersessional decision at the request of the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties concerning a proposal to try a new approach and recruit an independent Chair for the Scientific Committee (Circular 14/2020). As 10 delegations responded positively and 1 delegation abstained, the decision passed (Circular 18/2020).

After a review of the applications, two candidates were shortlisted and interviewed by a Panel composed of the MoP, PAEWG and SERAWG Chairpersons, and the Executive Secretary. On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, Interview Panel1 (established in Circular n° 14-2020 para 7) interviewed Mr Alistair Dunn and Dr Kevin Stokes. The Interview Panel recommended that the Meeting of the Parties appoint Mr Alistair Dunn to the position of SC Chairperson (Circular 18/2020).

The MoP Chairperson initiated an intersessional decision on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020, to agree on Mr. Alistair Dunn to be the next Scientific Committee Chairperson and arrangements linked to his recruitment. This decision passed on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## **II- SECRETARIAT STAFF RESOURCES:**

### **Presentation of the current members:**

The Secretariat staff currently consists of a full-time Executive Secretary post and a 75% (full-time equivalent- FTE) Data Manager post.

A postgraduate intern has been contracted under Regulation 11 of the Staff Regulations to provide additional help to the Secretariat with its daily operations.

### **Table 3: Secretariat Staff members and intern:**

<b>Executive Secretary</b>	Thierry Clot
<b>Data Manager</b>	Pierre Peries
<b>Temporary Personnel under contract</b>	Quentin Guibereau (06/15/2020 – 12/15/2021) Thibault Pivetta (02/15/2021-current)

### 1. Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Thierry Clot took office on 11th December 2019 and shall serve for the 4 ensuing years.

Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure explains in detail the duties of the Executive Secretary.

### 2. Data Manager

The Data Manager post, Mr. Pierre Peries started on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and was renewed on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for a two-year term.

The Secretariat Strengthening Note (MoP-08-INFO-02) explains in detail the duties of the Data Manager.

### 3. Intern Assistant to the Secretariat

To support the Secretariat in his day-to-day tasks, following the MoP7 decision, a postgraduate intern joined the Secretariat on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. He has been tasked to provide help with organizing the different committees and meetings, drafting of the different Secretariat reports, and writing synthesis for informal meetings.

The intern increases the Secretariat's capacities and does save some precious time for the development of the Secretariat activities (adaptation to the post-COVID-19 situation, update of meeting document templates...).

The two previous experiences (in 2020) and the present one (2021), have proved to be both beneficial to the recruited intern, experiencing great training in diplomacy, international affairs, and international law, as well as the Secretariat which can rely, for a reasonable budget, on a supplementary workforce with a well-suited academic background.

## III- SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

It consisted in the daily administrative management of the Secretariat (staff management, finance and bookkeeping, order and purchase, etc.), the collection and processing of data, preparation of data reports, organisation of meetings including presentations, interaction with and communication to CCPs, the maintenance and improvement of the website and its content, the exchanges with several organisations (NGO, FAO, etc.), attendance to the meeting of the neighbouring RFMOs. Concerning the financial management, please refer to the Financial Report (MoP-08-INFO-03).

Some activities are detailed below:

#### 1. Data-related activities:

A large proportion of the Data Manager's time was devoted to the acquisition and processing of the data required under the SIOFA requirements. The databases are continuously developed and maintained through updates and structural adaptations. Several databases have been set up: three relating to fisheries data and two to the Monitoring Control and Surveillance.

The Data Manager also produced data submission templates to improve the quality and data compliance in relation to the CMM on data standards (i.e., nominal catch, catch and effort, and

observer data); and generated quality reports on data submissions to point out gaps in fisheries data collection or reporting.

Examples:

- Updates of the Historical Catch and Effort Data on the recommendations of the Scientific committee para. 54-57.
- Updates of the Database on Observer data on the recommendations of the SC5 para. 67- 68.
- Preparation of datasets for consultancy initiated by the Scientific Committee.
- Maintenance and updating of the entry-exit reports database, preparation of a report document for the Compliance Committee.
- Preparation of new sets of footprint maps to the PAEWG3 and SC6.

## 2. Development of the SIOFA Website:

In addition to the continuous update of the content, a new development has been made to cope with the international health crisis and to support exchanges in relation to virtual meetings. The Data Manager initiated a forum for each meeting containing topics for agenda items that needed to be discussed remotely before any decision by video conference. The forums were open for registered and logged-in users. In 2021 the forums have been changed to the request of several CCP for a new system independent of the current website. This system notably accommodates the need for a user to receive an email notification when a forum is updated and when that user has registered to it.

An information board was developed to share general information and communication documents open for all visitors. It already contains information about the Regional Technical Seminar and the Call for Action organized by the FAO, the reports and meeting presentations of the Webinar, concerning ABNJ Deep Sea Project organized by the Secretariat on 17 July 2020 and a paper from the ICES Journal of Marine Science. This tool is also used to share information documents sent to the Secretariat which are too big to be forwarded by email.

## 3. Preparation of the different SIOFA Meetings: Organisation of Meetings of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies

In 2020 and 2021, the Secretariat had to adapt the preparation of the different meetings according to the imperatives linked to the health crisis.

The Secretariat notes that close captioning services have been adopted in 2020 at the request of some CCPs, non-native English speaking. The Secretariat hired VITAC, a USA-based company whose captioners provided real-time subtitles during the whole meeting. As the service was appreciated and considering the variable quality, the Secretariat is considering other providers, to promote a better and cheaper live close captioning service in the future.

**Table 4:** Calendar of the SIOFA Ordinary Meetings from MoP7 to MoP8

Meeting	Dates	Format
Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) (Video-conf.)	16 – 19 November 2020	Online

<u>3rd Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG3)</u>	1-5 March 2021	Online
3rd Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG3)	8-11 March 2021	Online
Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC5) (Video-conf.)	22 – 26 March 2021	Online
<u>5th Compliance Committee (CC5)</u>	1-5th July 2021	Online

Two platforms are in use to host virtual meetings (Cisco Webex and Zoom). The rapporteur services for SC6 and CC5 were provided by Mr. Alex Meyer, employed by the Japan-based company Urban Connections. The Secretariat was greatly satisfied with his works and is convinced that professional services are not only a comfort but a mandatory necessity for this task to be accomplished in a satisfying way.

- *The PAEWG2, SERAWG2 and the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC6)*

The Secretariat supported the different working group Chairs by carrying out an exhaustive list of tasks which some are presented below. We note the latter could have been delegated to a Scientific Manager (Ref. MoP-08-INFO-02):

- Preparing the smooth running of certain meetings,
- Cooperate to the redaction of the EU and SIOFA grant Agreement
- Participating in the preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToR),
- Transmitting amendments and revisions of the Working Plan,
- Setting up the implementation of scientific consultations to support the scientific Working Plan, such as the position of Mr. Gary Morgan,
- Lead and plan the Intersessional decisions (ref para. 9 below) linked with the preparation of the Working groups.

- *EU Grant Agreement (18/11/2020):*

The Executive Secretary of SIOFA signed on 18 November 2020, the Grant Agreement for action under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). To ensure that the objectives of the various SIOFA projects were properly planned, Mr. Gary Morgan was recruited as a consultant. His work was presented during SC6, which included coordinating the research work planned under the EU Grant Agreement, participating in the redaction of the Term of Reference for each study, and following it with the Chairpersons of each working group. The Secretariat draws attention to the importance of this role of coordinator: the Secretariat will not be able to carry out Mr Gary Morgan's tasks at the end of his contract.

4. *Compliance Monitoring Scheme: CCPs Compliance Report (CCR) and 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC5):*

The secretariat considered the recommendations of CC4 and MoP7 on compliance matters.

The CCR template has been reviewed item by item to be updated and ready by the deadlines required in CMM 2020/11.

A translation to French of the CCR questionnaire has been made following the recommendations of MoP 5 to facilitate the understanding of the texts by the French-speaking states.

The Secretariat also responded to the requests made at MoP7, notably those concerning compliance investigations in Mauritius which had not yet been answered, updates to the entry

and exit reports/ update of the authorized vessel, of the Official contact list, Compliance reports, etc.

#### 5. 7th Meeting of the Parties:

For the first meeting of the Parties by videoconference, the Secretariat implemented a videoconference using ZOOM with an attendance capacity of 100 persons. Several tests were made before the meeting to simultaneously manage French interpretation (offered to SIOFA by France Territories), close captioning, and text messaging (chat box). The whole system worked very well, but a request for a parallel meeting for a working group using the same platform, which could not be implemented in time for the MoP7. This problem has now been solved and would be operational for the CC5-MoP8.

The Secretariat will have now breakout rooms available via ZOOM to use during breaks.

To facilitate exchanges within MoP7 and decision-making, Ms Kerrie Robertson, Chair of MoP7, with the support of the Secretariat, set up a system implementing:

- Informal exchange forums in advance of the MoP,
- Templates for CCPs to express their views on agenda items.

This process is also used for the MoP 8 (July 2021) and helps to ensure that all planned items are addressed in a timely manner.

#### 6. The Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC6) (From 22nd to 26 March-2021):

Protected Areas & Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG3) and Stock & Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG3) were held on Zoom in several sessions in March 2021. These meetings were followed by the SC6. All participants appreciated the technical and smooth management of these virtual meetings and their outputs. The Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee is publicly available on the website.

During this Meeting, the SIOFA Data Manager presented a draft Overview of SIOFA fisheries in 2020 (SC-06-26), by compiling information from National Reports and databases.

#### 7. SIOFA IUU Vessel List

SIOFA CMM on the listing of IUU Vessels includes a special procedure for cross-listing IUU vessels from other organisations. The Secretariat proposed a new IUU vessel list made of 2 parts; in the first part, the IUU vessels established as such by SIOFA and, in a second part, the cross-list of IUU vessels listed by all the organisations included in CMM 2018/06 para 24. This method prevents mixing IUU vessels from SIOFA and from other RFMOs.

This presentation has been used for the update of the SIOFA IUU vessel list.

The Secretariat also included links to the relevant listing RFMOs to enable compliance officers to check that a vessel has not been recently de-listed from the list of the original RFMO.

To optimize the exchange of information concerning the IUU vessel cross-list, the Secretariat has contributed to Basecamp. Basecamp is intended to allow officers responsible for Compliance in each RFMO to informally alert each other quickly and easily about any IUU Vessel List updates. There are issues concerning the management of the Cross-list procedure that other RFMOs face, it is mostly due to the cascade effect when an update is made. The Secretariat draw a note of suggestions (MoP-08-INFO-04) on this point based on these discussions.

From November 2020 to April 2021, the Secretariat, on the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee, and following the request from the MoP7 (para 87 & 108) corresponded with the Sri Lankan authorities about the Abishak Putha 3 (Flag unknown but operating under Sri Lankan IMO) and with the South African authorities concerning the El Shaddai (South African flag).

It has been requested further explanations from the South African authorities.

The Secretariat did not receive any response to its requests from Sri Lanka.

#### 8. 2020 William's Ridge Fishing Campaign:

In 2020, it was the first time that two vessels were fishing simultaneously in this area. This context required the Secretariat to seek further clarification in CCM 2020-15, that have been taking into account by the CCPs concerned, and to extend working hours during this period to be able to respond within a noticeably short time to the fishing industry. With the experience of this first year, it appears it is possible to react promptly to requests from fishing vessels, using emails during the working days, and doubled by phone contact for the rest of the time.

The Secretariat notes that a strengthening of the Staff of the Secretariat could help in easing the constraint of this task in the future.

#### 9. Attendance at meetings of other organisations and with SIOFA CPs

The Secretariat has attended the following meetings of other organisations:

**Table 5:** Meetings with other Organisations

ORGANISATION	DATE
Data Collection and Statistics Working Group (IOTC)	From 30th November to 3rd December 2020
Tenth and Eleventh meetings of the Working Party for Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) of the SWIOFC;	29 <sup>th</sup> October & 10th December 2020
ECOFISH First Steering Committee [VIRTUAL] Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021
8th Meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK (RSN) and Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)	5th May 2021
25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	7 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Southern Western Indian Ocean Fisheries 10th Scientific Commission	31 <sup>st</sup> May to 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021

Summary reports have been made when meeting reports were not available and are on the SIOFA website.

An increase in staff capacity would enable the Secretariat to participate in additional working groups or RFMOs meetings concerning the fight against the IUU fishing, or regarding some shared scientific issues (standardization of data, assessment of some species, impact assessment of gears, etc.). ~~This could permit to satisfy the CCPs request on reporting the various meetings attended on highlighting the interests of the SIOFA.~~ This reinforcement would allow the Secretariat to better participate in RFMO or Commission meetings and to be able to report to the MoP on issues of interest to SIOFA

- *ECOFISH First Steering Committee [VIRTUAL] Meeting (02nd March 2021):*

This meeting took place on 2nd March 2021 and was held virtually. The Secretariat was welcomed to participate as an Observer.

No specific issue was noted by the Secretariat given that the descriptions of the Fisheries were specific to the artisanal Fisheries in the EEZs. No request was made by the ECOFISH Parties neither.

However, the Secretariat noted some interesting points in the second part of the results concerning the implementation of IUU monitoring in EEZs. Indeed, processes to implement an inter-regional (at regional level), inter-agency and inter-governmental MCS cooperation, coordination and harmonisation processes in the EA-SA-IO in view of a more effective fight against IUU fishing at a regional level is in progress.

More detailed information is available on the EcoFish website at <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/spsc>. You will find a presentation of the progress of the initial projects carried out by ECOFISH as well as the description of the panoramas and challenges of the fisheries and by country.

- *8th Meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK (RSN) and Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) (5th May 2021):*

Since the inaugural session in 1999, the biennial RSN meetings address the outcomes of the committees of Fisheries (COFI) and focus on issues of major importance to the Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), including the role of RFBs in global and regional fisheries processes. It allows SIOFA to work more coherently with the management approaches among RFBs, to:

- Identify and address common problems and constraints.
- Develop strategies and mechanisms to address constraints.
- Share experiences and lessons learned; and
- Improve the effectiveness of the RFBs.

The Meeting took place in two virtual sessions which were held on 24 February 2021 and 25 February 2021. The Secretariat has written a summary report of this meeting (Annex1).

The Secretariat, with the approval of the Chair, has been involved in the process of revising the RoP and ToR of the RSNs, concerning the definitions of the qualifying terms of RFBs. This participation in these discussions with other RFBs was a new way to work on common issues.

The Secretariat also sent a report of the implementation of the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) to the PSMA Secretariat. This report is available on the meeting report section of the SIOFA website (internal communication).

- *SWIOFC 1) SIOFA Executive Secretary at the 10th and 11th WPCCTF of SWIOFC:*

The Secretariat attended virtually to the 10th and 11th Commission of the SWIOFC for the Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries. These virtual meetings took place on 29th October 2020 and 10th December 2020.

- *SWIOFC 2) Southern Western Indian Ocean Fisheries 10th Scientific Commission (June 2021):*

After attending the 10th Scientific Commission of SWIOFC, the Secretariat noted possible support to the SIOFA Scientific Committee to standardise scientific practices and data collection,

especially on demersal transboundary resources and Saya de Malha Bank. During the meeting, the Secretariat renewed its full support to the SWIOFC whether they wanted to contact the SIOFA and our desire to collaborate.

As a kind reminder, the Secretariat also noted in the MoP6 and MoP7 reports, some points of collaboration were proposed between SWIOFC and SIOFA. The latter concerned research topics on transboundary demersal fisheries resources of the Saya de Malha Bank; activities to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and projects to promote the implementation of the SIOFA Conservation and Management Measures (CMM).

- *IOTC: 25th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission & Bilateral Arrangement with IOTC (7<sup>th</sup> June 2021):*

The Secretariat participated in the 25th session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as an observer for the first time. According to the report of the MoP7 para 165 and the IOTC S23 report para 91, SIOFA Secretariat and the IOTC Executive Secretary have engaged discussions to present a draft letter of Intent for a future collaborative arrangement between IOTC and SIOFA, to be considered first during the 25<sup>th</sup> IOTC meeting and then by the MoP8. It was agreed that after the MoP has reviewed the LoI, the Secretariat will send back the LoI amended to the IOTC [part of sentence missing?]. As required in paragraph 165 of MoP8, this Letter of Intent considers the definition of species for management purposes (bycatch, species of mutual interest).

Also, the SIOFA Secretariat requested observer Status to IOTC on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and received confirmation of agreement from the IOTC Executive Secretary on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. (Section of the SIOFA website, internal communication).

#### 10. Official Travel and associated Reports (2020-2021)

All the reports are available to SIOFA contacts once logged in on the website in the internal communication section of the SIOFA website.

<http://apsoi.org/internal-communication>

#### 11. SIOFA Circulars:

*The Secretariat notes that some reports have been made internally. we would like to confirm to the CKIs that their request has been considered. This means the next reports will be provided through future circulars.*

In 2020, 30 circulars have been produced to distribute information to SIOFA Official Contacts. To date, 21 circulars have been produced to distribute information to SIOFA Official Contacts for 2021.

#### **Table 6:** 2021 Circulars

<p>SIOFA Circular 2021-21 Letters from Mauritius (ref Mariam 1)          SIOFA Circular 2021-20 IUU cross-list update BAROON (Stateless)          SIOFA Circular 2021-19 and Intersessional Decision 2021-IV Extending derogation on Scientific Observer Coverage          SIOFA Circular 2021-CC5-02 Closing of the Forum CC5          SIOFA Circular 2021-MoP8-02 transmission of MoP8 correspondence items.          SIOFA Circular 2021-18 Chairing 5th Compliance Committee.          SIOFA Circular 2021-MoP8-01 Opening of the MoP8 Forums.</p>
--

SIOFA Circular 2021-CC5-01 Transmission of correspondence items.  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-17 Opening of the CC5 Forums.  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-16 (Updating IUU Vessel Cross-list).  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-15 initiating an intersessional decision to extend the derogation per CMM 2020-01 para 39A.  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-14 - Intersessional decision 2021-03 (Arrangement and modalities CC5-MoP8 meetings).  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-13 IUU Cross-List Updating GFMC-SPRFMO-IOTC  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-12 Invitation to MoP8 Meeting  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-11 Invitation to CC5  
 SIOFA Circular 2021-10 modalities of the CC5 and MoP8  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-09 Decision CC5-MoP8 Meetings  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-08 NPFC IUU vessels list  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-07 on the holding of CC5 and MoP8  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-06 Bilateral cooperative Arrangement with IOTC  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-05 Holding of the CC5 and MoP8 meetings  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-04 entry into force of 2020 updated CMMs  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-03 IUU Vessel Cross-list  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-02 Extension of the suspension of observer coverage  
 PDF icon SIOFA Circular 2021-01 rev1 Outcome of Intersessional Decision relating to the SIOFA SC meetings dates

**Table 7: 2020- Circulars:**

SIOFA Circular 2020\_30 decision for SC 2021 meetings  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-29 MoP7 report is adopted  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-28 Final circulation of the meeting report for comments  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-27 SIOFA IUU vessels list  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-26b European Commission Grant to SIOFA  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-26 Inclusion of NIKA (Panamanian vessel) on SIOFA IUU list  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-25 MoP7 meeting report  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-24-5 Closure of the 7th Meeting of the Parties  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-24-3 MoP7 opening of agenda items 4 13 15  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-24-2 MoP opening of agenda item 6 7 12  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-24-1 MoP opening of agenda item 11  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-24 MoP opening of MoP7 and items 1 2 3 5  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-23F Letter from MOP Chairperson relating to correspondence items for MoP7  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-23 - Identification of delegation in video conference meeting 2020-11-11  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-22 Opening of the 4th Compliance Committee
 

- SIOFA Circular 2020-22A CC4 Monday Items Opening
- SIOFA Circular 2020-22B CC4 Tuesday Items Opening
- SIOFA Circular 2020-22C CC4 Wednesday Items Closing
- SIOFA Circular 2020-22D CC4 Discussions pertaining to Agenda Item 12, 13, and 4
- SIOFA Circular 2020-22E CC4 Closing of the meeting

 SIOFA Circular 2020-21B Intersessional decision to agree certain arrangements and modalities for CC4 and MoP7  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-21A concerning the MoP7 Agenda and an intersessional decision.  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-20 Admission of Environmental Justice Foundation as Observer  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-19 Outcome of the SC Chairperson selection process  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-18 Intersessional decision for the appointment of Scientific Committee Chairperson  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-17 Opening dates and information on MOP7 Forums

SIOFA Circular 2020-16 Decision to agree MoP7 and CC4 arrangements and modalities.  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-15 Decision to temporarily extend the suspension of observers on trawlers.  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-14 Recruitment of an independent chairperson for the SIOFA SC  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-13 Regarding the 7th Meeting of the Parties  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-12 Precautionary measures against fraud attempt  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-11 Regarding the 4th Compliance Committee dates  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-10 Regarding the dates for the Meeting of the Parties  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-09 Regarding the decision to suspend temporarily observer coverage on trawler vessels  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-08 Voluntary contribution from Australia  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-07 MoP Chair, Vice-Chair and ROP amendments  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-06 Letter from the MoP Co-Chairs persons about the 7th MoP  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-05 Decision to suspend temporarily observer coverage on trawler vessels  
  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-04 Decision in response to Japan letter regarding temporarily suspension of observer's coverage.  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-03 Postponement of the 7th Meeting of the Parties  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-02 Scheduling of the 5th Scientific Committee and working groups  
 SIOFA Circular 2020-01 Derogation request by the Cook Islands from the observer coverage

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

## 12. SIOFA Intersessional decision

A synthesis of all the intersessional decisions is available on the SIOFA Website information Board, and accessible to all.

The Secretariat provided an information paper on decisions taken intersessionally between MoP7 and MoP8 (ref RoP 13 para 12).

## **ANNEX 1: Secretariat Summary Report of the 8th Meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK:**

*2 Virtual Sessions were held on 24 February 2021 (16:00-19:00 hrs CET) and 25 February 2021 (00:00-03:00 hrs CET).*

### **1. COFI-34 outcomes of significance for RFBs:**

- During COFI a call emerged from FAO to collaborate with organizations working in fisheries and aquaculture management to improve the coordination, consistency and harmonization of information exchanged between organizations to limit the common burden of different members. A renewed commitment was confirmed to strengthen the long-term sustainability and resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- The RSN reiterated its commitment. It was pointed out that there were differences in transshipments and that appropriate considerations should be made by the regional organizations. RFMOs should not wait any longer for the regulation and control of these transshipments.
- After recalling the key role of RFMOs and RFABs, the RSN stressed the need for cooperation between them.
- It was recalled that the Covid has influenced many levels in the regional processes, especially the RFMOs and RFABs in terms of logistics. The Committee requested to continue to provide technical advice by including objectives for the implementation of fisheries instruments.
- COFI stressed the key role of RFBs in fisheries science, management, control, and monitoring. The need for collaboration between RFBs and COFI was re-emphasized.
- A participant argued that there were weaknesses in FAO support, particularly regarding the lack of mention of RFMOs and RFABs in the preparatory meeting for the Code of Conduct for Sustainable Fisheries. It also recalled the omission of VMEs in this document.
- On this point, the Secretariat replied that the RFBs mentioned in the text included RFMOs, RFABs and other international organizations for the sake of simplification. It was proposed that the key activities by the different organizations be further specified in an adapted annex.
- In the overall process, the RSN encourages the participation of fisheries. It was then stressed that to do so, the summaries resulting from these meetings must be transmitted to the different organizations.

### **2. Information on global and regional processes relevant to RFBs:**

A presentation of the different events and commissions for the coming year took place. This presentation included, in particular:

- Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (2022)
- Third Meeting of the Parties (Review) to the PSMA to be hosted by the European Union from 31 May to 4 June 2021

- New international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)
  - The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2021–2030) that will be adopted at the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- “The CWP standard for referential data standard” project was presented. It is a project which is to lay the basis for establishing a data-sharing agreement as practical work arrangements between agencies involved in a data workflow. This is expected to reduce the data reporting burden for data producers and to improve data quality by mainstreaming the cross-checking and reconciliation of information from national sources. The FAO calls on the different RFBs to contribute to the following.
  - Concurring with the PSMA, a recall was made of the stakeholder questionnaire. The RFMOs were reminded to report on what has been done to implement the PSMA in the different years.
  - After a reminder of the updates of FIRMS by the Department of Statistics Fisheries, the Former Chair recalled the need for collaboration of all the RFMOs in the project. The RECOFI and the RSN Secretariat discussed a new collaboration on this issue.
  - Finally, the chair Former pointed out that the RSN is now entering a new phase of work and collaboration. The network must continue to promote visibility and data collection while focusing on collaborative technical projects and Region Blocking Mechanisms.

#### 4. RSN: current state and outcome of the survey questionnaire on RSN’s financial needs and potential donors

There was little response from RFMOs concerning the questionnaire. During the latter, the necessary international cooperation in terms of sharing experiences and data was raised.

**Suitable donors:** The most suitable donors for RSN suggested by the survey participants are: Regional Economic Organizations, primarily the European Union; FAO; FAO Member States.

**Contributions:** Most participants disagreed in supporting RSN financially. On the other hand, responses suggest that those participants who affirmed “Maybe” would be ready to allocate funds depending on the activity proposed. This topic will be discussed further soon.

**Means:** The participants of the survey have suggested the following means by which engaging Contracting Parties to ensure financial contributions to support the RSN:

- o FAO call to RSN Members and the Member States.
- o Through projects of common interest for the RSN network
- o Grants from regional economic organization
- o Establish a regular budget from contributions of FAO members, and FAO budget and the special fund from voluntary contributions.

**Subjects of importance: Result in the questionnaire by the RSN members for the RSN:**

The survey participants have selected the following subjects in order of importance:

Particularly important	Moderately important	Other topic mentioned by Participants
Raising public awareness of RSN and RSN Members' work	Promotion of common technical standards and practices related to responsible fisheries and correlated issues	Cooperate with some useful world ocean-wide initiatives led by NGOs and FAO Member States and allow them to have visibility at the RSN Newsletter/RSN meetings
Organization of RSN network meetings		Cooperate with some useful world ocean-wide initiatives led by NGOs and FAO Member States and allow them to have visibility at the RSN Newsletter/RSN meetings
		Increase RSN visibility by sharing information/news on social media
		To remain the RSN network for exchange, coordination of information, sharing of experiences and lessons learnt.

RSN Secretariat could play a more active role as an interface between RFMOs and other Regional Fisheries Organizations.

**5 Current state of the process of revision of the RSN Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

- One participant noticed the RoP may require to be more specific about operational instructions. The latter wanted to add a section with more practical information.
- Another participant noted that the established importance and visibility of the NSN requires attention to the protocol. A clear distinction must be made between terms of reference and rules of procedures.

-The making of the ToR and the RoP are ongoing. They should be finalized during the next meetings. Any comments from participants were welcome.