

MOP-08-INFO-10

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

5-9 July 2021 (online)

### Report on the intersessional decisions:

Proposal  Working paper  Info paper  Other Document

## SIOFA SECRETARIAT

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### Abstract

In accordance with SIOFA RoP 13.12, where any decision is taken intersessionally, the Executive Secretary shall include an agenda item on decisions taken intersessionally at the following Meeting of the Parties.

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Introduction:

Since MoP7, several intersessional decisions have been taken. Following the recommendations of MoP7, the Secretariat has endeavoured to strengthen the transparent transmission of all intersessional decisions to all official contacts. The referred Circulars are available in the restricted access at the following address:

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

**A- Adoption of The MoP7 Report and Succession of the MoP Chairperson:**

On Monday 21 December 2020, on behalf of the previous MoP Chairperson the Secretariat transmitted an intersessional decision to officially adopt the report of the 7th Meeting of the Parties to Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and formalise the transfer of the position of the new Meeting of the Parties Chairperson, succeeded by Dr Chumnarn Pongsri (ref **CIRCULAR 2020/29**).

**B- Intersessional Decision (n°2021/01) Modalities and Arrangements of the Sixth Scientific Committee:**

On 30 December 2020, the Secretariat initiated, on behalf of the MoP Chairperson, an intersessional decision to agree on the arrangements and modalities for the sixth Scientific Committee and its working groups meetings (**Ref: SIOFA CIRCULAR 2020-30**).

This decision passed on 26 January 2021 with a letter from the MoP Chairperson, transmitted by the Secretariat. Nine delegations responded to this intersessional decision (**Ref: SIOFA CIRCULAR 2021-01**).

The following decision passed:

- *The 6th Scientific Committee and its Working Groups meetings will take place in a virtual format, with a mix of correspondence exchanges and video meetings.*
- *The 3rd Protected Area and Ecosystem working group (PAEWG3) will take place on Monday 01 March and Tuesday 02 March, with the adoption of its report on Thursday 04 March. Wednesday 03 March will be scheduled as a reserve day, and the PAEWG will meet on that day only if required to complete the online discussions.*
- *The 3rd Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment (SERAWG3) working group will take place on 08 March and 09 March, with the adoption of its report on Thursday 11 March.*
- *The 6th Scientific Committee will take place from 22 to 26 March, with the adoption of its report on Friday 26th March.*
- *The video meetings will take place from 06:00 am to 09:00 am UTC with a 20-minute break in the middle of the session, and the possibility to extend to later, only if required to complete the days' discussions and agreed by the meeting.*

**C- Intersessional decision (n°2021/02) to extend the suspension of Observer Coverage in CMM 2019-01 para 39a for the Cook Islands and Japanese trawler vessels:**

On 29 January 2020, the Secretariat transmitted an Intersessional decision from the MoP Chairperson relating to the extension of the suspension of observer coverage on Cook Islands' and Japan's Trawler vessels (**Ref: SIOFA CIRCULAR 2021-02**). This decision was based on Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure and the intersessional decision described in **SIOFA Circular 15/2020**, with the Cook Islands who suggested extending the suspension of observer coverage under similar conditions from 1 February 2021 to 30 June 2021. 9

delegations responded positively to this intersessional decision. This extension of the suspension of Observer Coverage therefore passed.

As a brief reminder, the extension concerned Paragraph 39(a) of CMM 2019/01 which continues to be suspended for the Cook Islands and Japan under conditions simplified below:

*· The Cook Islands and Japan may, when COVID19-related restrictions do not allow them to ensure the safe deployment of observers, authorise any vessel flying their flag to fish with trawl methods in the Agreement Area without an observer on board for any trips that leave port for the full duration of that vessel's trip (i.e., if a vessel leaves port between). However, the use of alternate means for collecting all or part of the data specified in CMM 2018/02 are encouraged given this data is essential for the work of the Scientific Committee.*

*· Notwithstanding the provision above, when during a fishing trip that started during the derogation period without an observer onboard, the fishing vessel concerned makes a call to a port (e.g., for crew rotation, victualing etc) after the end of the derogation period, all efforts should be made to deploy an observer for the rest of the fishing trip, if safety conditions are met and safe travelling is possible.*

*· The Cook Islands and Japan may also apply this arrangement to any vessel flying their flag which has left port after the date upon which the outcome of this decision is notified.*

*· During the derogation period, the Cook Islands and Japan are encouraged to inform SIOFA Secretariat in case the evolution of the situation and COVID19 related restrictions allow meeting the conditions required for the safe deployment of observers on their respective fishing vessels.*

*· Cook Islands and Japan will submit information to the next ordinary meeting of the Compliance Committee relating to their actions during the suspension period, including any observation achieved. This information would be separate to the submission of the annual implementation report required by the CMS (as it falls outside the relevant assessed period).*

#### **D- Intersessional decision – Circular 2021-09 : Decision concerning the holding of the 5th Compliance Committee (CC) and the 8th Meeting of the Parties (MoP):**

On 30 April 2021, the Secretariat initiated an Intersessional decision from the MoP Chairperson concerning holding the 5th Compliance Committee and the 8th Meeting of the Parties through correspondences and videoconferences. Ten delegations answered the question of holding the 5th Compliance Committee and the 8th Meeting of the Parties. This has resulted that, considering the report of the MoP7 para 180 which agreed that the CC5 will take place from 01 to 03 July 2021 and the MoP8 will take place from 05 to 09 July 2021, and the para 181 which confirms that the dates will remain the same, the following decision passed:

*“a) Due to the health context of the pandemic and the restriction of flights, the 5th Compliance Committee will be held by correspondence and videoconference from 01 to 03 July 2021.*

*b) For the same reasons, the 8th Meeting of the Parties will be held by correspondence and videoconference from 05 to 09 July 2021. “*

**E- Initiating an Intersessional Decision n°2021-03 to agree with some Arrangements and Modalities for the 5th Compliance Committee and the 8th Meeting of the Parties:**

On the 30 April 2021, the Secretariat transmitted a letter from the MoP Chairperson, according to rule 13 of the SIOFA's rules of procedure an Intersessional Decision to initiate agreements on some Arrangements and Modalities for the 5th Compliance Committee and the 8th Meeting of the Parties (**REF: SIOFA CIRCULAR: 2021-14**). The revised Annex 01, which details these Modalities and Arrangements was approved by the quorum and transmitted on 26 May 2021.

For the next intersessional decisions, a different numbering will be used by the Secretariat: instead of the format YEAR-NO, the format will use roman numbering for the NO so it is distinct to the circular numbering.