

MoP-08-INFO-17

8th Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
(MoP8)
5-9 July 2021 (online)

Establishing an annual exchange of toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA

Relates to agenda item: 12.2. CCAMLR Cooperation

[Info paper]

Delegation of Australia

Abstract

Following discussions at SC6, we note that the joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on Toothfish data exchange recommended by SC6, could be arranged by the respective Secretariats and interested CCPs for late 2021.

SC6 “recommended a joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on data and related information exchange in respect of Patagonian toothfish fisheries. The workshop will seek to give effect to data exchanges on toothfish fisheries consistent with part 2 ‘areas of cooperation’ element ii (c) and (iii), (iv) and (v) of the Arrangement between the Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources” (SC6 para 156).

The workshop would focus on developing the specification for an annual exchange of toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA as noted in SC6 Report paragraphs 158 and 159, specifically the relevant catch and tagging data that would be used in stock assessments of the Toothfish stocks that straddle or potentially straddle the two Areas.

We request that the MoP direct the Scientific Committee Chair and the Secretariat to write to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee Chair to invite CCAMLR Members to this workshop in accordance with the above. We also invite other CCPs with an interest to work with the SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair and the Secretariat to develop a workshop agenda.

Toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) are commercially important species that occur in the southern parts of the SIOFA area of competence and also in the CCAMLR Convention Area. There is potential for individual toothfish stocks to straddle the boundary of the two management bodies.

An overarching arrangement between SIOFA and CCAMLR was signed on 28 August 2018 which seeks to facilitate cooperation between the parties particularly with respect to stocks or species of mutual interest (<https://www.apsoi.org/about-siofa/international-cooperation/CCAMLR>). This arrangement identifies a range of areas for cooperation between the two bodies, including data exchange, harmonising approaches and collaborating on analysis and research.

The sixth meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC6, 22-26 March 2021) recommended that the MoP consider establishing an annual exchange of scientific toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA (see Appendix 1 of this paper). The SC further recommended that this be progressed through a joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on data and related information exchange in respect of Patagonian toothfish fisheries (see Appendix 1).

We note that:

- A joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on toothfish data exchange could be arranged by the Scientific SIOFA Committee Chair, Secretariat and interested CCPs for late 2021. The position of CCAMLR Science Manager (essential to the workshop) is currently vacant and it is anticipated that this role will be filled, at the earliest, prior to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee meeting scheduled for 11-15 October 2021.
- The workshop could be conducted online (i.e. in virtual format) over 1-2 days.
- The workshop would focus on the development of a specification for an annual exchange of toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA as noted in SC6 Report paragraphs 158 and 159, specifically the relevant catch and tagging data that would be used in stock assessments of the Toothfish stocks that straddle or potentially straddle the two Areas.
- Future workshops may seek to give effect to other areas of cooperation.

We request that the MoP direct the Scientific Committee Chair and the Secretariat to write to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee Chair to invite CCAMLR Members to a workshop on the data exchange of toothfish data between SIOFA and CCAMLR in accordance with the above.

We also invite other CCPs with an interest in this workshop to work with the SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair and Secretariat to develop a workshop agenda and participate.

Appendix 1: Extract form the report of The Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA):

155. The SC **RECOMMENDS** that the MoP give consideration to establishing an annual exchange of toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA.

156. In this regard, the SC **RECOMMENDS** a joint SIOFA-CCAMLR Workshop on data and related information exchange in respect of Patagonian toothfish fisheries. The workshop will seek to give effect to data exchanges on toothfish fisheries consistent with part 2 'areas of cooperation' element ii (c) and (iii), (iv) and (v) of the Arrangement between the Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

157. The workshop would include CCPs involved in the SIOFA toothfish fishery that fish the CCAMLR boundary area, as well as the SIOFA and CCAMLR Secretariats.

158. The workshop would develop the specification for annual exchange of toothfish (*Dissostichus spp.*) data between CCAMLR and SIOFA. This would initially include exchange of the following data between the Secretariats:

- Toothfish tags released and recaptured where either the tagging or the recapture occurred in the SIOFA Area. Data to include date, Location (lat./long.), depth, tag information details (colour, text, number, inscription), biological data including length, sex and maturity.
- Total toothfish catch summaries across the following areas:
 - i. CCAMLR: Subareas 58.7 and 58.6, Divisions 58.5.1, 58.5.2, 58.4.3b and 58.4.1.
 - ii. SIOFA: Area 3b except Del Cano Rise, Del Cano Rise (as defined in CMM 2019/15), Area 6, Area 7 except William's Ridge and William's Ridge (as defined in CMM 2019/15).

159. The workshop would also determine the timing of such data exchange consistent with the respective data provision rules of SIOFA and CCAMLR. The intent will be for these data to be made available to CCPs and/or Members upon request to the respective Secretariat.