

MoP-08-INFO-21

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

## Letters to Sri Lanka in regard to Abishak Putha 3

*Relates to agenda item: 6*

Working paper  Info paper

### SIOFA Secretariat

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#### **Abstract**

This document provides with the letters sent by the Secretariat to Sri Lanka in regards to IUU vessel Abishak Putha 3, following the request from MoP7

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Ref.: 2020-12-22-2 ES

Tuesday 22<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

**Ms Kalyani HEWAPATHIRANA**

Director Fishing Operations  
Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources  
New Secretariat  
Maligawahththa  
Colombo 10  
SRI LANKA

Dear Madam,

I trust you are well.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), of which I am the Executive Secretary.

SIOFA manages the high seas fisheries of the Southern Indian Ocean (excluding species managed by the IOTC).

In October 2019, Mr Pierre PERIES of the SIOFA Secretariat informed you that two fishing vessels apparently under flag from Sri Lanka were operating in the Saya de Malha area, within the SIOFA Agreement Area. The vessels concerned are the ABISHAK PUTHA 3 (MMSI: 417000878) and SENPATHI 3 (MMSI: 417221050).

I would like to thank you for your cooperation that permitted to clarify the situation of the SENPATHI 3, flagged to Sri Lanka, which was confirmed to be fishing for tuna species under jurisdiction of IOTC.

At the time, it was not possible for your department to identify the other vessel, the ABISHAK PUTHA 3, as being flagged to Sri Lanka, resulting in the flag State being unknown and the vessel presumed to be Stateless.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, held from 17 to 20 November 2020, agreed to include the ABISHAK PUTHA 3 on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List with unknown flag State, pursuant to SIOFA Conservation and Management Measure 2018-06 on the listing of IUU vessels.

Please find enclosed, for your information, the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the SIOFA. I draw your attention to paragraphs 87 and 88 that concern specifically the ABISHAK PUTHA 3.

Although the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties has presumed the vessel to be Stateless, available information indicates that the vessel may nonetheless be operating under the flag of Sri Lanka: <https://www.vesselfinder.com>

I would be grateful if you could investigate this matter and inform us of the results of your investigation as well as any action taken in regard to the vessel, if applicable.

Furthermore, I use this opportunity to invite you on behalf of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Secretariat, to join our organization.

As a kind reminder, the SIOFA was signed in Rome the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and entered into force in June 2012. SIOFA currently has ten contracting parties (Australia, China, the Cook Islands, the European Union, France on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Thailand), one participating fishing entity (Chinese Taipei) and one cooperating non-Contracting Party (Comoros). SIOFA's objectives are to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area, and to promote the sustainable development of fisheries in the Area.

Since its first Meeting of the Parties in October 2013, SIOFA has adopted 15 Conservation and Monitoring Measures. SIOFA meets on an annual basis to further develop its common management capacity over the Southern Indian Ocean's high seas resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact the SIOFA Secretariat if you need any more information.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry CLOT



Executive Secretary  
SIOFA/APSIOI



Ref: 2021-03-11-01-ES

Thursday 11 March 2021

**Ms Kalyani HEWAPATHIRANA**  
Director Fishing Operations Department of  
Fisheries & Aquatic Resources  
New Secretariat  
Maligawahththa  
Colombo 10  
SRI LANKA

Dear Madam,

I trust you are well.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), to follow up on our exchange of December 22, 2020.

As a kind reminder, we informed you in our previous letter that the 7th Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, held from 17 to 20 November 2020, agreed to include the ABISHAK PUTHA 3 (MMSI: 417000878) on the SIOFA IUU Vessel List with unknown flag State, pursuant to SIOFA Conservation and Management Measure 2018-06 on the listing of IUU vessels.

We had provided you with the Report of the 7th Meeting of the Parties and drew your attention to the fact that the ABISHAK PUTHA 3 could operate under the flag of Sri Lanka.

We would therefore like to know if you have conducted a survey on this subject, and if so, what the results are.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our invitation, on behalf of the Secretariat of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), to join our organization in order to facilitate our next collaborations. Please, refer to the terms of the SIOFA Agreement, available on our website (<http://apsoi.org/node/3>), and rules 17 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure that set out the process for becoming a Contracting Party, a Cooperating non-Contracting Party or an Observer to the SIOFA (<https://www.apsoi.org/about-siofa/basic-documents/RoP>).

Please do not hesitate to contact the SIOFA Secretariat if you need any more information.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry CLOT

Executive Secretary  
SIOFA/APSOI



Ref: 2021-03-11-01-ES

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Ms Kalyani HEWAPATHIRANA,**  
Director Fishing Operations Department of  
Fisheries & Aquatic Resources New  
Secretariat  
Maligawahththa  
Colombo 10  
SRI LANKA

Dear Ms. HEWAPATHIRANA,

I trust you are well.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), to follow up on our exchange of March 11, 2021.

As a kind reminder, we had provided you with the Report of the 7th Meeting of the Parties and drew your attention to the fact that the ABISHAK PUTHA 3 could operate under the flag of Sri Lanka.

We would therefore renew our concerns whether you have ended the survey on this subject or not, and what the results are.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our invitation, on behalf of the Secretariat of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), to join our organization in order to facilitate our next collaborations. Please, refer to the invitation letter we recently send you.

Feel free to contact the SIOFA Secretariat if you need any more information.  
Hoping that this letter will reach you well.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry Clot

Executive Secretary  
SIOFA

COPY : - Dr Chumnarn Pongsri, SIOFA MoP CHAIRPERSON ;