

Provisional Agenda

5th Meeting of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) Scientific Committee

30 March – 03 April 2020

Hotel Le Récif, Saint Gilles, La Réunion

Chair: Dr Ilona Stobutzki

The provisional agenda for the 5th meeting of the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) has been developed to focus on the areas of work identified in SIOFA CMM 2019/01, CMM 2019/02, CMM 2019/03, Meetings of the Parties (MoP) and the Scientific Committee Operational Work Plan.

NOTE: Prior to this meeting the following two SC Working Group meetings will convene;

- 2nd Meeting of the Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG2), 23-24 March
- 2nd Meeting of the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG2), 25-27 March

1. Opening

- 1.2 Opening statement from the Chair
- 1.2 Introduction of participants

2. Administrative arrangements

- 2.1 Adoption of the Agenda
- 2.2 Confirmation of Meeting Documents
- 2.3 Appointment of rapporteurs

3. Annual National Reports

In accordance with CMM 2019/02 para 9, each CCP¹ shall provide to the SC an annual National Report. Guidelines for the annual National Reports can be found on the SC page of the SIOFA website <https://www.apsoi.org/scientific-committee>.

4. Current and historical status of fishing activities

4.1 Historical Catch and Effort Data

In accordance with 2019/02 para 10, CCPs shall provide to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2018, historical catch, effort data and, if available, observer data for period 2000 to 2015 and any previous years where available. Any State or fishing entity that becomes a party to the Agreement, CNCP or PFE after date of CMM adoption shall provide this data within 12 months of becoming Party to the Agreement or becoming a CNCP or PFE. Secretariat to prepare Annual data holdings report.

¹ Collectively refers to Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity.

4.2 Spatial Extent of Historic Catch Data, Bottom Fishing Footprint

In accordance with CMM 2019/01 para 20, CCPs shall, at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the ordinary meeting of the SC in 2018, submit to the Secretariat relevant data on the spatial extent of its historical bottom fishing effort in the Agreement Area.

In accordance with CMM 2019/01 para 7, the SC 2020 shall develop and provide advice on an appropriate SIOFA bottom fishing footprint based on the data provide by CCPs to the Secretariat under para 20. SC4 agreed steps for the work to be undertaken by the Secretariat under the PAEWG prior to SC5 (SC4, para. 59 – 64).

4.3 Overview of SIOFA fisheries 2019

To produce the Overview of SIOFA fisheries report incorporating the latest information provided in 2019 National Reports and the Secretariat databases. Secretariat to provide first draft of the Overview.

5. Scientific data standards

5.1 Templates for data submission

Secretariat to report on the use of the data submission templates.

5.2 Annual Data Holdings report and data inventory

SC4 asked the Secretariat to continue to refine and consolidate the annual data holdings report and data inventory into one document. MoP6, para 35, requested the Secretariat develop a process to evaluate the completeness and identify any outstanding gaps in annual data submission by each CCP.

5.3 Scientific Observer data

In accordance with CMM 2019/02 para 15, CCPs shall, for all observed trips, collect observer data in accordance with the relevant sections of Annex B. All observer data collected by CCPs shall be reported to the Secretariat by 31 May each year for the previous calendar year. Annex B will be reviewed by the SC at its ordinary meeting in 2020.

5.3.1 Data collection and reporting

Inventory of observer data by CCP based on the Annual Data Holdings Report.

5.3.2. Scientific Observer database status

The SIOFA Data Manager to provide an update on the SIOFA Observer Database

MoP6, para 38, requested the SC harmonize an approach to understanding observer coverage levels. SC5 to propose definition of observer coverage levels.

5.3.4 Review of Annex B from CMM 2019/02

5.3.5. Observer data collection form.

In accordance with CMM 2019/02 para 16: by 2023, the Scientific Committee shall develop and adopt a template for the observer reports, and a template for an observer data collection form that may be used by observers in subsequent years. The Secretariat will present the CCALMR observer data forms

6. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

6.1 Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG)

PAEWG Chairperson to present report from PAEWG2, addressing the following agenda items as appropriate.

6.2 VME mapping

In accordance with CMM 2019/01, para 5, the SC, by the close of the SC 2020, shall provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on maps of where VMEs are known to occur, or likely to occur, in the agreement area. SC4, Annex I, provides the workplan to complete this work. Update from PAEWG on progress.

6.3 VME indicator species and responses to VME encounters

6.3.1. VME indicator taxa list

MoP6, para 39, adopted VME taxa list (SC4 Annex J). Update on development of pictorial guides to indicator species.

6.3.2. Encounter threshold level for trawl gears

In accordance with CMM 2019/01, para 6, the SC 2020 shall develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on criteria for what constitutes evidence of an encounter with a VME, in particular threshold levels and indicator species. MoP6, para 42, requests the SC progress the work to identify a suitable threshold for trawl gear (SC4, para 111). This should include a review of the methods used by CCPs to establish their existing thresholds, as well as development of a consistent threshold based on consolidated records of benthic bycatch data for trawl gears.

6.3.3. Weight Conversion of VME indicators

MoP6 para 43, requests CCPs provide information on how they convert volume units of benthic bycatch to weight units in trawl fisheries to the Secretariat and the Secretariat prepare a summary for review in order to provide advice on a standardised approach of conversion.

6.4 SIOFA Standard protocol for future protected area

In accordance with CMM 2019/01 para 6, the SC 2020 shall provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on the interim SIOFA Standard Protocol for Future Protected Areas Designation adopted by MoP5; and research and management plans for each protected area. SC4, para 115 – 123 provided recommendations on the interim protocol and research and management plans.

6.5 Bottom Fishing Impact Assessments (BFIA)

6.5.1. Submitted BFIA

In accordance with CMM 2019/01, para 23, the SC shall consider and provide advice on BFIA submitted under para 22b or 27b, whether each BFIA meets an appropriate standard in light of international standards and the SIOFA BFIA.

6.5.2. Cumulative BFIA

In accordance with CMM 2019/01, para 23, the SC by the end its ordinary meeting in 2018, shall provide advice on the likely cumulative impacts of bottom fishing activity from CCP vessels. SC4, para 128 and Annex T requests the PAEWG work plan to progress the cumulative BFIA.

7. Stock assessment and ecological risk assessment

In accordance with CMM 2019/01 para 6, SC 2020 shall, develop and provide advice and recommendations to the MoP on the status of stocks of principal deep-sea fishery resources targeted, and, to the extent possible, taken as bycatch and caught incidentally in these deep-sea fisheries, including straddling fishery resources.

In accordance with CMM 2019/15 para 3, SC shall provide annual reports on the status of demersal fisheries resources targeted, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, SC will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

Additionally, MoP5, para 51, requests SC provide advice on the status of stocks in relation to MSY until specific reference points are adopted (MoP5 Report, para 51).

7.1 Stock Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG)

SERAWG Co-chairpersons to present report from SERAWG2, addressing the following agenda items as appropriate.

7.2 SIOFA stock assessment framework

SC4 report, para 131, further work was needed on the SIOFA database and species to continue the categorisation of SIOFA species into the framework tiers with more confidence.

7.2 Alfonsino

In addition to the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6 and CMM 2019/15 para 3, in accordance with CMM 2019/15 para 54-55, in SC 2020 shall assess the Beryx splendens stocks and provide advice on assessment time frames.

The SC shall provide advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection to reduce future assessment uncertainty.

SC4, para 135 and Annex V outline the work plan for the assessment under the SERAWG.

7.3 Patagonian toothfish

*In addition to the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6 and CMM 2019/15 para 3, in accordance with CMM 2019/15 para 28-30, SC 2020, for the Del Carno Area, the SC shall make recommendations to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall advise on any necessary improvements to data collection to reduce future assessment uncertainty. The SC shall address the issues related to depredation and advise on appropriate limits for relevant species caught as bycatch in *Dissostichus spp.* fisheries*

7.4 Orange Roughy

Address the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6 and CMM 2019/15 para 3, in accordance with CMM 2019/15 para 6, the SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the orange roughy workplan.

7.5 Deepwater sharks

In addition to the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6 and CMM 2019/15 para 3, progress elements identified in SC4 and the SC Work Plan 2018-2021.

7.6 Saya de Malha Bank Fisheries

In addition to the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6 and CMM 2019/15 para 3, progress elements identified in SC4 and the SC Work Plan 2018-2021.

7.7 Other teleosts

In addition to the directions noted above in CMM 2019/01 para 6, progress elements identified in SC4 and the SC Work Plan 2018-21.

7.8 Harvest strategies

MoP5 para 52-53 requested the SC provide advice on candidate target and limit reference points for orange roughy, alfonso and toothfish and develop a framework and workplan for the establishment of harvest strategies for key SIOFA stocks. SC4 para 174-175 and Annex X outline the work plan to progress this work.

8. Proposals to bottom fish in the Agreement Area in a manner at variance with established measures

In accordance with paragraph 29 of CMM 2019/01 a Contracting Party, CNCP and PFE seeking to authorise any vessel flying its flag shall submit to the SC, at least 30 days prior to an ordinary meeting of the SC, a proposal to undertake that activity or activities.

9. Scientific impact assessments

In accordance with SIOFA SC Operational Work Plan 2018-2021

9.1 Demersal gillnet operations

In accordance with CMM 2016/05 para 2, Contracting Parties, CNCPs and PFEs recommend that deepwater gillnets not be used in the Agreement Area by any vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party, CNCP or PFE until such time as the Meeting of the Parties has received a recommendation from the SC.

10. Cooperation with other RFMOs and international bodies

10.1 FAO ABNJ Deep Sea Project

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Deep Seas Project update.

Report of the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction Deep Seas Project - Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting

10.2 Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)

An update on coordination with SWIOFC and in accordance with MoP5 Report (para 118), SC to provide advice on scientific activities that could be conducted on straddling demersal stocks of the Saya de Malha bank.

10.3 The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

In accordance with CMM 2019/15 para 11, CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for D. eleginoides stocks. Update on any intersessional coordinate underpinned by the 2018 Agreement between SIOFA and CCAMLR.

11. Scientific Committee Work Plan

11.1 Long term research plan

Review and update if required

11.2 2019 – 2022 operational work plan and budget

Review and update if required. Discussion on potential projects and collaboration. Discussion on the science budget to provide advice to the Meeting of the Parties. Discussion will include the process for developing project cost estimates and terms of reference, noting the need to align with budget years.

12. Review and development of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)

SC to consider reviews of CMMs and development of any new CMMs requiring input from the Scientific Committee.

12.1 Draft CMM on fishing research

EU's proposal for a CMM to regulate fisheries research in the Agreement Area was considered and discussed at SC3. SC3 recommended that a revised draft be provided taking into guidance and requests provided in SC3 Report para 289.

12.2 CMM 2019/01 Interim Management of Bottom Fishing

This CMM shall be reviewed no later than at the ordinary Meeting of the Parties in 2019. This review shall take into account, inter alia, the latest advice of the Scientific Committee, including advice on those matters listed in paragraphs 5 to 7 and appropriate catch levels for principal target species, in accordance with the objective described in paragraph 1 (CMM 2019/01, para 41).

12.3 CMM 2016/03 Data Confidentiality

MoP6 para 163, the MoP agreed to undertake an intersessional review of CMM 2016/03, with the SC Chair leading this work.

13. Advice to the Meeting of Parties

A consolidation of SC5 advice to the MoP

14. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The SC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will come to the end of their terms at the end of this meeting. The election of a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson needs to be undertaken.

15. Future meeting arrangements

The SC is asked to agree to (approximate) dates and location for the 6th meeting of the SIOFA SC.

16. Other business

16-1 SIOFA SC official contact

Yearly update of the SC contact point in each CCP.

17. Adoption of the meeting report

18. Close of meeting

SC-05-04