

HOW JOIN SIOFA?

1. Join SIOFA as Contracting Partie, or Contracting Participating Fishing Entity.

If you are interested to cooperate with the Meeting of the Parties of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement by ratifying, acceding, or approving the Agreement, please contact the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO-HQ@fao.org) who is the Depositary of this Agreement.

2. Join SIOFA as Non-Contracting Partie, or Non-Contracting Participating Fishing Entity.

If your vessels engage or intend to engage in fishing activities in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, you are invited to cooperate with the Meeting of the Parties by ratifying, acceding or approving the Agreement, or by applying for cooperating Non-Contracting Party status.

Any State or regional economic integration organisation may apply to the Meeting of the Parties to be admitted in the capacity of a cooperating Non-Contracting Party.

Any application for such admission should be received by the Executive Secretary at least 60 days before the ordinary Meeting of the Parties and must include a written statement of commitment as following:

- To achieve the objectives of the Agreement, who consist in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area through cooperation with the Contracting Parties and to promote the sustainable development of the fisheries in the Area, taking into account developing coastal States in the Area that are Contracting Parties to the Agreement, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States;
- Comply with the conservation and management measures and all other decisions and resolutions adopted pursuant to the Agreement.
- Take appropriate action to ensure that its fishing activities do not diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and all other decisions adopted in accordance with the Agreement and consult with the Meeting of the Parties to develop any other criteria for its admission in the capacity of a cooperating non-Contracting Party or cooperating non-participating fishing entity specific to its situation.

Cooperating within SIOFA allows you to collaborate in order to achieve the objectives of the Agreement, but also to be able to include your fishing vessels on the list of vessels authorized to fish in the waters under the jurisdiction of SIOFA.

Furthermore, in accordance with Rule 17(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties, at each ordinary meeting the Meeting of the Parties may decide to set aside fishing opportunities for cooperating non-Contracting Parties or cooperating non-participating fishing entities.

If you are interested to join the SIOFA as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, your application for admission must therefore reach the Secretariat **no later than sixties days before the next meeting of the Parties** (Please look at the SIOFA website, to find the meeting dates).

3. Join SIOFA as Observer

In accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement and these Rules of Procedure, the following may participate as observers to Meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies:

- a) Coastal States with waters under national jurisdiction adjacent to the Area who are not Contracting Parties;
- b) Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, cooperating non-participating fishing entities and non-Contracting Parties;
- c) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- d) the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission;
- e) Regional fisheries management organisations with competence over high seas waters adjacent to or overlapping the Agreement Area; and
- f) Other intergovernmental organisations and regional economic integration organisations concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Agreement.
- g) A non-governmental organisation concerned with matters relevant to the implementation of this Agreement who wishes to participate as an observer shall notify the Executive Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the meeting, (secretariat@siofa.org) together with an explanation of its interest in the work of the Meeting of the Parties
. The Executive Secretary shall promptly notify Official Contacts of the request. Any such non-governmental organisation shall be invited to participate as an observer unless a simple majority of the Meeting of the Parties objects to the request by notifying the Executive Secretary in writing at least 20 days before the opening of the meeting. Observer status shall remain in effect for future meetings unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise. The Meeting of the Parties may review and reconsider whether an observer retains its status.

If you join SIOFA as observer, you may participate in the deliberations of the ordinary and extraordinary Meetings of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies at the discretion of the Meeting of the Parties but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decision.

Don't hesitate if you have any question to contact the secretariat by email (secretariat@siofa.org).