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**SC-09-INFO-03**

# SIOFA Secretariat support to the SC and MoP in 2023-2024

The SIOFA Secretariat

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<b>Abstract</b>	
This paper presents a summary of the work undertaken at the SIOFA Secretariat to support the requests of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties.	

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# SIOFA Secretariat support to the SC and MoP in 2023-2024

## Introduction

This paper attempts to provide a simple and schematic summary of the work undertaken at the SIOFA Secretariat to support the requests of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties around scientific matters.

The paper uses tables, links and a “traffic light” color system to rapidly visualize the status of the tasks assigned to the Secretariat, with the aim to identify tasks that warrant further attention from the Scientific Committee. The following table provides an explanation of the color coding system.

Task completed	
Task ongoing	
No action taken so far	

## Tasks explicitly assigned by SC and MoP

The following table contains a list of tasks that were assigned to the Secretariat by either the SIOFA Scientific Committee or the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties around scientific matters (including their references), with a short description of the actions undertaken and the status of the task.

Tasking	Source of task	Actions undertaken to date	Progress status
The SC requested the Secretariat to include the total catches per year for each of the main SIOFA target species or for each of the species covered by the fisheries summaries.	Para 51 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) included these total catches in the different annual reports presented at SC9.	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat work with CCPs during the intersessional period to develop, where possible, standardised GLM CPUE indices for each of the main SIOFA fish stocks.	Para 56 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) facilitated meetings and correspondence for an informal working group on CPUE standardization. As a result of the work of this group, a paper was prepared for the attention of the SC (see paper SC-09-24)	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat to resolve the issue of missing shark bycatch data when preparing the ecosystem summary for 2024.	Para 67 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Science Officer verified that the missing data in the report originated from a corresponding gap in the data extract received from the Data Officer in early 2023 for the purpose of reporting. The Data Officer clarified that the missing data noted by the SC were from observer-reported catches, which were not included in the 2022 extract and therefore also not in the Secretariat reports. These data were extracted and released to the Science Officer in 2023,	Completed

		and are now included in the Ecosystem Summary 2024 (see paper SC-09-15).	
The Secretariat to be the repository of the SIOFA bottom fishing footprint, to provide it to CCPs on a request-basis and to utilise it, if required, for compliance purposes, accompanied by full documentation of the procedure for creating the footprint. Data layer of the footprint, along with the SIOFA Subareas, should be made available in the SIOFA Secretariat GitHub account	Para 93 <a href="#">SC8 report</a> Para 113-114 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) organized the footprint spatial file in an internal repository for future reference, and uploaded it to the collection of <a href="#">SIOFA spatial files available on GitHub</a>	Completed
The Secretariat to make a public version of the SIOFA ecosystem summary (MoP-10-10), the fisheries overview (MoP-10-09-Rev1) and the orange roughy fishery summary (MoP-10-11), with confidential information removed, available on the SIOFA website.	Para 83-84-129 <a href="#">SC8 report</a> Para 118-119 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) published these reports on the SIOFA website (under <a href="#">SIOFA Publications</a> ) following MoP10	Completed
SC recommended that the MoP task the SC with developing a fisheries summary for common mora ( <i>Mora moro</i> ), and the associated bycatch of Portuguese dogfish.	Para 85 <a href="#">SC8 report</a> Para 123 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) prepared a fishery summary for common mora (see paper SC-09-21)	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat to provide public summaries of the restricted papers of the previous SC meetings when time allows	Para 106 <a href="#">SC8 report</a> Para 127 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) and the intern prepared public abstracts of restricted papers, which were uploaded within each meeting page (in April-May 2023)	Completed
The SC requested that, in addition to the Overview of SIOFA fisheries, the Secretariat prepare a paper for future SC meetings with the number of tags released in the SIOFA Area, the number of tags recaptured with a breakdown by whether they were originally released in the SIOFA or CCAMLR Area, and the number of fish that moved between the two areas based on recaptured tags. The SC noted that this should be presented annually to the SC and requested the Secretariat also submit a	Para 113 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) prepared this paper for consideration by SC9 (see paper SC-09-26), and will submit it to CCAMLR SC upon approval of the SIOFA SC	Completed (submission to CCAMLR pending)

version of that paper to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.			
The SC requested that the Secretariat prepare a report to be presented to future SC meetings recording all data requests that relate to scientific activities and the outcomes thereof.	Para 119 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Data Officer) prepared a paper for SC as requested (see paper SC-09-INFO-06)	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat to communicate with FAO to obtain new species codes for <i>Bathyraja tunae</i> and <i>Rhinochimaera africana</i> .	Para 251 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) obtained FAO common names for Cristina's skate and paddlenose chimaera in early July 2023 and provided them to Australia in time for inclusion in the CMM 12 revision at MoP10. However, FAO codes for these two species were obtained only in September 2023, and were included in Appendix C of the Fisheries Overview 2024, paper SC-09-14. Note that these codes should be included in a future revision of CMM 12 and that the Secretariat recommended the SC considers a more general revision of shark taxonomy/codes.	Completed
The SC requested that a draft proposal for revising CMM 2022/12 be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the MoP.	Para 252 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	After further consideration following SC9, the proposal was presented by Australia rather than the Secretariat.	Completed (albeit not by the Secretariat)
The SC requested the Secretariat to prepare and present a paper summarizing available information about SIOFA seabird bycatch mitigation measures and seabird interactions.	Para 268 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) prepared a joint paper with Igor Debski (ACAP Secretariat) as requested. See paper SC-09-22.	Completed
The Secretariat add to the oilfish fishery summaries information on the significant catch in cells that are both in exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and in SIOFA, the need to consider this catch information for any future assessment of oilfish in the SIOFA Area.	Para 271 <a href="#">SC8 report</a> Para 135 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) added corresponding information to the oilfish fishery summary 2024, paper SC-09-19 (and the oilfish section of the Fisheries Overview 2024, paper SC-09-14)	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on behalf of the SC to amend the typographic errors in CMM 2020/01 (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing) Annex 1 for adoption by the MoP.	Para 275 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) prepared and submitted a corresponding paper with editorial changes to MoP10 (paper <a href="#">MOP-10-18</a> ), which was subsequently adopted as <a href="#">CMM 01(2023)</a>	Completed

The SC requested the Secretariat to review and prepare a paper on the individual encounter thresholds resulting in a move-on rule used at other RFMOs and the basis that was used for setting them for discussion at SC9.	Para 278 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Science Officer) prepared and submitted a corresponding paper (see paper SC-09-25)	Completed
The SC requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft of proposed revisions to CMM 2022/02 (Data Standards) based on the recommendations made by the VME workshop that are endorsed by the SC. The SC reviewed the proposed revisions and recommended them for endorsement by the MoP	Para 278 <a href="#">SC8 report</a>	The Secretariat (Data Officer) submitted a corresponding paper to MoP10 (paper <a href="#">MOP-10-20</a> ), which was subsequently adopted as <a href="#">CMM 02(2023)</a>	Completed
MoP agreed to have an agenda item on harvest strategies at its next annual meeting and invite the Pacific Community (SPC) or other experts to give an overview of harvest strategies and appropriate software tools (such as the SPC AMPLE Shiny App or other similar HCR tool) at the next MoP-SC joint meeting	Para 93 <a href="#">MoP10 report</a>	The SIOFA Scientific Committee Chair facilitated a presentation by SPC at the Workshop of Harvest Strategy Management Objectives ( <a href="#">WS2023-HSMO</a> )	Completed

Recurring tasks in the SIOFA SC 2023-2024 Workplan ([MoP-10-13-Rev1](#) Prioritized SIOFA SC medium-term workplan)

Tasking	Lead	Status
Annual report of VME encounters	Data Officer	Completed (paper SC-09-INFO-09)
Summary of SIOFA data	Data Officer	Completed (paper SC-09-INFO-04)
Update fisheries overview	Science Officer	Completed (paper SC-09-14)
Update ecosystem summary	Science Officer	Completed (paper SC-09-15)
Create/update fisheries summaries	Science Officer	Completed Created RIB summary (paper SC-09-21) Updated following summaries:

		ORY (paper SC-09-16) ALF (paper SC-09-17) TOT (paper SC-09-18) OIL/LEC (paper SC-09-19) HAU (paper SC-09-20)
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### SIOFA Scientific project management

The SIOFA Executive Secretary is responsible for the administrative side of project management (i.e., contracting of consultants and payments). For each project, an Advisory Panel is formed by the SC Chairs to provide technical guidance to the project and reviews its outputs. The SIOFA Science Officer prepares draft contracts, coordinates the activities of the consultants, aids the project manager (usually the SC Chair) and the project Advisory Panel with the output review process, and generally ensures the smooth flow of the project from contracting to completion, including publication.

Starting in 2023, the SIOFA Data Officer created a [public database of scientific projects on the SIOFA website](#). The database lists all current and past projects and for each project displays key information (e.g., start and end dates, budget, consultants etc.) and contains the final report produced by each project. This database is periodically updated by the SIOFA Science Officer.

The following table details the projects that were completed or are active since the last annual SC meeting, for a full history of SIOFA scientific projects please refer to the [public database of scientific projects on the SIOFA website](#).

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status
SER2022-TOP1		Toothfish stock structure (molecular analysis)	8,333 €	EU grant GO1	Completed (SC-09 -30)
SER2022-ORY1		Orange roughy stock structure	8,333 €	EU grant GO1	Completed (SC-09 -28)
SER2022-BYS1		Alfonsino stock structure	10,000 €	EU grant GO1	Completed (SC-09 -28)
SER2022-BYS2		Alfonsino otolith ageing + age validation using bomb radiometry	10,000 €	Mop9 + EU grant GO1	Completed (SC-09 -29)
PAE2022-MPA1		Protocols to designate and evaluate MPAs	18,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	In progress, draft report (SC-09-INFO-19)
SER2022-TOP2		Toothfish population spatial structure	34,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	In progress, draft report (SC-09-INFO-18)
SEC2022-OBS1		Harmonisation of Scientific Observer programmes	48,000 €	EU SIOFA-SEAs	In progress, draft report (SC-09-INFO-20)
DWS-2023-01	EU (Roberto Sarralde)	Improving the scientific advice for data-limited deep-water sharks caught longline fisheries in the SIOFA Area	None required	EU internal funding	Completed (SC-09-39 through 42)

Project code	Lead	Summary Title	Budget	Funding source	Project Status
TOT-2023-01	EU (Roberto Sarralde)	Toothfish catch limits	None required	EU internal funding	Completed (SC-09-35)
ORY-2023-01	COK (Steve Brouwer)	Age and growth of orange roughy	40,000	MoP	In progress
ORY-2023-02	COK (Steve Brouwer)	Orange roughy acoustics	25,000	MoP	In progress
DWS-2023-02	SIODFA (Paul Clerkin)	Identification and trends in Deepwater Sharks	12,000	MoP	In progress (SC-09-INFO-21)

Note that projects DWS-2023-01 and TOT-2023-01 were not managed by the Secretariat, but rather driven by the EU, and therefore an update is not provided within this paper (but see corresponding papers submitted to SC9 by the EU delegation, papers SC-09-35 and SC-09-39 through 42 ).



### Coordination with other RFMOs, FAO, other institutions

The Secretariat is tasked by the SC and the MoP to coordinate with other relevant RFMOs and to implement SIOFA's actions relative to commitments with FAO (the FAO FIRMS and DSF II Projects).

Tasking	Source of task	Actions undertaken to date	Progress status
CCAMLR toothfish tag data exchange	SC	The Secretariat (Data Officer) exchanged data with the CCAMLR Secretariat in September 2023.  The Secretariat (Science Officer) further coordinated with CCAMLR on a joint submission and on data availability (see paper SC-09-26).	Completed (recurring) (SC-09-INFO-05)
RFMO coordination	SC/MoP	The Secretariat (Science Officer) participated in annual meetings of SEAFO (SC19, virtual), IOTC (WPEB, in person), and CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-42, in person).	Completed (recurring)
FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Coordination	Partnership Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Science Officer participated to a FAO-FIRMS technical workgroup (TWG) on terminology in May 2023 (<a href="#">meeting report</a>) and a FAO-FIRMS Steering Committee meeting (virtual) in June 2023 (<a href="#">meeting report</a>)</li> <li>- The Science Officer completed the annual submission of data to FAO-FIRMS, and relative update of the SIOFA FIRMS factsheets, in October 2023 <a href="https://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/siofa/en">https://firms.fao.org/firms/search/institution/siofa/en</a></li> </ul>	Completed (recurring)
FAO Deep-sea Fisheries Project (DSF II) Coordination	Partnership Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Science Officer participated to three different FAO-DSF II Steering committee meetings: one virtual in June 2023 and two in person in January and December 2023.</li> <li>- The Science Officer coordinated the provision of a report on commitment of SIOFA resources to the DSF project (July 2023), of feedback on SIOFA CMM alignment with international goals (October 2023), coordination on reporting of shark FAO codes in SIOFA (October 2023), and feedback on a DSF on-line course (November 2023)</li> <li>- FAO-DSF II and the SIOFA Secretariat (Science Officer) coordinated on a paper submission to SC9 (paper SC-09-32)</li> </ul>	Completed (recurring)