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A Regional Meeting to Review Fisheries Related Aspects of the Oceanography of the (Western?) Indian Ocean

A Concept Note

The Southern Indian Ocean Deepsea Fishers Association (SIODFA)

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Abstract:	SIODFA proposes that a regional meeting to discuss the fisheries oceanography of the (Western?) Indian Ocean should be considered. Several tasks are identified that would need to be addressed. It is proposed that the SC discuss the possible merits of such a proposal

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INTRODUCTION

SIODFA members are acutely aware that their catch success, in the immediate, medium and long-terms are directly tied to variations in the physical oceanography not only of the specific regions where their vessels operate in the Southwest Indian Ocean but variation of the wider Indian Oceanic gyres as it affects the distribution of fish eggs once spawned, larvae development and subsequent recruitment to the fishery. It is unknown what current characteristics result in good recruitment and vice versa. Experience elsewhere shows that gyre timing, structure and strength may have more influence on recruitment success than the size of the spawning stock.

SIODFA believes that an endeavour to review the oceanographic factors that are important to the management of the fisheries they prosecute could make a major contribution to the effectiveness of management actions to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries on which they depend. However, SIODFA is acutely aware that they are not an appropriate organizations to provide leadership in investigating the feasibility of such a meeting.

THE CONCEPT

SIODFA proposes that a regional meeting to discuss the fisheries oceanography of the (Western?) Indian Ocean should be considered. For this to happen several tasks must be addressed.

- i. Can a potential host for such a meeting be identified? Such a host would be required to take a lead (coordinating?) role in the preparations for such a meeting.
- ii. Identify and make an initial contact with institutions whose mandate address the issues that such a meeting should address. These would include:
 - RFMOs

- Regional Fisheries Organizations
- Coastal States
- High seas fishing operators
- Regional and national institutions involved in relevant oceanographic aspects of the Indian Ocean,
- And?

PROPOSAL

This concept be discussed by the SC is to see if it has merit and if there is interest on the part of SIOFA to play an initial role to investigate its feasibility.