

# **Decisions of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement**

**18-19 October 2013, Melbourne, Australia**

## **Agenda Item 1 - Election of Chair for the meeting**

1. The Meeting of the Parties elected Dr. Ilona Stobutzki, representative of Australia as Chairperson of the first meeting of the Parties.

## **Agenda Item 1(a) – Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the agenda, with amendments.

## **Agenda Item 1(b) – Meeting arrangements**

No decisions adopted.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Secretariat**

3. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that in the interim, the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties will also provide secretariat services until long-term arrangements are agreed by Contracting Parties. Secretariat services will transfer to the Contracting Party that is hosting the next meeting of the Parties at the point the meeting record of the last meeting is adopted. Any costs associated with the provision of secretariat services will be borne by the host Contracting Party.

## **Agenda Item 2(a) – Possible location arrangements**

Refer to Agenda Item 2(a)(i).

## **Agenda Item 2(a)(i) – Cost benefits analysis**

4. Mauritius indicated interest in hosting a standalone secretariat for SIOFA. Mauritius agreed to report back with a costed proposal for consideration at the next Meeting of the Parties.
5. The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the CCAMLR Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the CCAMLR Secretariat. Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
6. The Meeting of the Parties authorised Australia to contact the SPRFMO Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA Secretariat services with the SPRFMO Secretariat. If the SPRFMO Secretariat is receptive to hosting SIOFA secretariat services, Australia agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
7. The Meeting of the Parties authorised European Union to contact the IOTC Secretariat about the possible co-location of SIOFA secretariat services with the IOTC Secretariat. The European Union agreed to provide a costed proposal for consideration at the next meeting of the Parties.
8. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals from other Contracting Parties would also be welcomed.
9. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that there is no preferred option at this time for the provision of secretariat services for SIOFA, and that all options will be considered.
10. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that proposals should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow adequate time for consideration and to allow Contracting Parties to seek additional information if required.

11. At a minimum, secretariat services and associated functions must be professional, cost effective, flexible, transparent and confidential. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that all proposals for the provision of SIOFA secretariat services should include:
- a. ability to deliver functions prescribed in Article 9 of the Agreement and as follows:
    - i. Receiving and transmitting the official communications of the Meeting of the Parties;
    - ii. Facilitating the collection of data necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Agreement;
    - iii. Making all necessary arrangements for the ordinary meetings of the Parties and any subsidiary bodies where required;
    - iv. Preparing administrative and other reports for the meeting of the Parties, the Scientific Committee and any other subsidiary bodies established;
    - v. Having the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the meetings of the Parties;
    - vi. Administering and reporting to meetings of the Parties on financial and staffing resources;
    - vii. Preparing an annual report on the Secretariat's activities for the ordinary meeting of the Parties; and,
    - viii. Communicating with other relevant regional fisheries management organisations / arrangements.
  - b. costings for facilities and personnel, based on the above functions and staffing levels of:
    - i. 0.5 full time equivalent Executive Secretary;
    - ii. 0.5 full time equivalent Data Manager; and,
    - iii. 0.5 full time equivalent Administration Officer.
  - c. costings for establishing (if required) and hosting data collection, collation and database management. Costings of these services should be provided:
    - i. as standalone services; and,
    - ii. in combination with the other secretariat functions.

### **Agenda Item 2(b) – Functions and provision of services**

Refer to Agenda Item 2(a)(i).

### **Agenda Item 3 – Drafting rules of procedure for SIOFA and subsidiary bodies**

12. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia will progress the development of the draft Rules of Procedure in the intersessional period, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.
13. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

### **Agenda Item 3(a) – Establishment of subsidiary bodies under the Agreement**

14. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to establish a permanent Scientific Committee. The Meeting of the Parties agreed each Contracting Party will be entitled to appoint one representative with suitable scientific qualifications to the Scientific Committee who may

be accompanied by alternate representatives and advisers. The Scientific Committee will meet as often as may be necessary to fulfil its functions.

15. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Australia and the Seychelles will develop Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee for consideration by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to adopt these Terms of Reference in the intersessional period. The Terms of Reference will include future priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee.
16. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Terms of Reference should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not more than four months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months with a view to adoption of the Terms of Reference by Contracting Parties within the following month.
17. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that once the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee have been adopted, the Scientific Committee will be constituted in accordance with paragraph 14 as soon as practicable.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Financial matters**

Refer to Agenda Item 4(a).

#### **Agenda Item 4(a) – Drafting rules and regulations concerning financial management**

18. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to develop financial regulations and a budget contribution formula to assess annual contributions. France and Mauritius volunteered to progress the development of draft financial regulations to include options for a budget contribution formula, to be considered by Contracting Parties in the intersessional period, with a view to adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.
19. The Meeting of the Parties also agreed the financial arrangements need to be equitable, transparent and affordable and, supported by robust systems. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should draw on the SPRFMO financial regulations as a model. Potential options for non-Contracting Party and other stakeholder contributions should also be explored. Options for interim financial arrangements (from the second meeting of the Parties until agreed otherwise) should also be provided for consideration, if required.
20. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft financial regulations and options for a budget contribution formula should be circulated to all Contracting Parties not less than five months prior to the next meeting of the Parties, to allow for a two month comment period with a revised draft circulated not less than 30 days prior to the next meeting of Parties.

#### **Agenda Item 4(b) – Provisional draft budget for first financial period**

No decisions adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 4(c) – Annual member contributions**

No decisions adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Progressing conservation and management measures**

21. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that, until the SIOFA Rules of Procedure are adopted, Contracting Parties may agree by consensus to temporary conservation and management measures (CMM) in the intersessional period, including but not limited to:
  - a. deepsea gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets;
  - b. protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems; and,
  - a. constraints on the deepsea trawl fishery.
22. The Meeting of the Parties agreed all temporary measures should include:

- a. a mechanism and timeframe for review, including advice provided by the Scientific Committee when established;
- b. a date upon which they will come into force after adoption by Contracting Parties; and,
- c. a requirement for Contracting Parties to report on their implementation of the measure.

23. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that should a Contracting Party wish to propose temporary measures, that Contracting Party will propose a timeframe for the circulation, comment and possible adoption of the temporary measures being proposed, unless already agreed to by Contracting Parties. This timeframe is to be agreed by consensus by all Contracting Parties.

**Agenda Item 5(a) – UNGA Fisheries Resolution 61/105 (including subsequent measures) on VMEs and bottom fisheries**

24. The Meeting of the Parties agreed there was a need to consider giving effect to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions 61/105 (2006), 64/72 (2009) and 66/68 (2011) prior to the next meeting of the Parties.

25. Noting this, Cook Islands agreed to draft proposals for temporary bottom fishing measures and to circulate these to Contracting Parties and other participants in the first meeting of the Parties in the intersessional period for their consideration. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that draft proposals should be circulated not more than two months following the first meeting of the Parties, with a comment period of two months and with a view to adoption by consensus by Contracting Parties within the following month.

**Agenda Item 5(b) – Arrangements for deepwater and pelagic gillnets**

Refer to Agenda Item 5.

**Agenda Item 5(c) – Arrangements for pelagic fisheries**

26. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their past and current fishing activities relating to small pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area.

**Agenda Item 5(d) – Treatment of SIODFA voluntary closures**

No decisions adopted.

**Agenda Item 6 – Other management measures**

27. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to request Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties with vessels operating in the SIOFA Area to provide each meeting of the Parties with a report on their fishing activities in the SIOFA Area and measures they have taken to implement temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

**Agenda Item 6(a) – Scientific data standards, confidentiality, submission and management**

Refer to Agenda Item 7.

**Agenda Item 6(b) – MCS measures: VMS, observer programs, port state measures, etc**

28. The Meeting of the Parties agreed to commence intersessional discussions on the development of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures. These discussions are to be led by the European Union.

### **Agenda Item 6(c) – IUU fishing**

29. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the European Union will develop a discussion paper on the process for listing vessels suspected of conducting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that this paper should give consideration to establishing mechanisms to identify vessels authorised to operate in the SIOFA Area, including the establishment of a SIOFA registry of authorised vessels. This paper is to be circulated to Contracting Parties in the intersessional period for consideration.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Provision of scientific advice**

30. The Meeting of the Parties agreed the Scientific Committee be tasked with developing:

- a. draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee;
- b. a draft work plan identifying priority scientific work. This work plan should include, but is not limited to:
  - i. development of scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data, using the SPRFMO scientific data standards as a model;
  - ii. identification and distribution of vulnerable marine ecosystems;
  - iii. determination of the state of play of current fishing activities for both bottom and pelagic fisheries in the SIOFA Area;
  - iv. determination of requirements for stock assessments for deepsea fisheries;
  - v. determination of the impacts of fishing on associated and dependant species, in particular deepsea sharks and seabirds;
  - vi. provide scientific advice to assist the review of temporary measures adopted by Contracting Parties.

31. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the draft Rules of Procedure and work plan, should be circulated to Contracting Parties not less than 60 days prior to the next meeting of the Parties, with a view to finalisation and adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

### **Agenda Item 8 – Other business**

No decisions adopted.

#### **Agenda Item 8(a) – Current fishing in the SIOFA Area**

32. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that each Contracting Party is to provide the next meeting of the Parties with a report on their flagged vessels' fishing activities in the SIOFA Area. The Meeting of the Parties agreed Australia would develop a draft report template and will circulate this to Contracting Parties for their consideration prior to finalisation.

#### **Agenda Item 8(b) – Status of ratifications/accessions to SIOFA**

33. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that signatory Parties will be provided with a copy of the Report of the first meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties also agreed to extend an invitation to signatory Parties, to the next meeting of the Parties.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Date and location of next meeting**

34. The Meeting of the Parties accepted the generous offer of Mauritius to host the second meeting of the Parties in March 2015. The Meeting of the Parties agreed that the costs of the second meeting of the Parties would be borne by the host Contracting Party.