



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES TO SIOFA'S PROTECTED AREAS AND ECOSYSTEMS WORKING GROUP (PAEWG)

Title: Management of other ecosystem components – seabirds and mammals

Project Code: PAE2021-02

1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

The EU has agreed to a 2-year funding arrangement to enable SIOFA to commission a series of scientific studies to support the SIOFA/Scientific Committee's (SC) Work Plan (2018-21). These proposed studies will be integrated with SIOFA's ongoing and planned scientific studies.

The EU funding arrangements are designed to deliver on five General Objectives and, within each general Objective, a number of specific objectives.

These Objectives are designed to (a) provide the data and analysis to inform the effective management of the three key target stocks in the fishery, being alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*), toothfish (*Dissostichus spp*) and orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) and (b) to mitigate risks to vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) including by-catch and/or impacted species.

This document describes the background for the project related to General Objective 3 of the EU funding grant (GO3), being the *Management of other ecosystem components*. The work is particularly concerned with addressing Specific Objective 8 (SO8) of GO3 of that Grant, viz *Defining interactions..(of fishing activities).. with seabirds, mammals, species of concern etc.*

The budget allocation for the project activities is €10,000.

The proposed project will build on the work already undertaken by SIOFA's Scientific Committee (SC) and its Protected Areas and Ecosystems Working Group (PAEWG) on ecological risk assessment (ERA) by extending that work to include seabirds, mammals and bycatch of species of concern. This proposed project also complements an ongoing project related to General Objective 2 of the EU funding grant of *Management of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)* which is currently underway.

The expected outcomes of the proposed project described in this document include the development of the understanding of the impact of fishing on seabirds, mammals and species of concern and to define and suggest mitigation strategies for dealing with direct and indirect interactions between fishing activities and those species.

The Terms of Reference, work plan, budget allocation, and other administrative matters are included below. Once appointed, the consultant should direct any questions and clarifications to the Executive Secretary (Thierry CLOT, thierry.clot@siofa.org) for administrative matters and to the PAEWG Chair (Mr Patrice Pruvost) on patrice.pruvost@mnhn.fr for technical matters .

2. TERMS of REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for the work to be undertaken are:

- ToR1: Document the seabird and mammal species that commonly interact with fishing activity in the SIOFA area and undertake Ecological Risk Assessments for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) on those species.
- TOR2: Using SIOFA databases, assemble and document the important bycatch species taken during fishing operations within the SIOFA area and undertake Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) on these species.
- TOR3: Provide recommendations for mitigating the impacts of fishing on bycatch species, seabirds, and mammals, particularly those that are assessed by the ERA work as being significantly at risk.

SOURCE of INFORMATION (References)

The following is a summary of resources, information and references that contain additional Information for the consultant, and which are available on the SIOFA website, <https://www.apsoi.org>. In particular, the following are relevant to this proposed consultancy.

- Scientific Committee Working Plan
- Reports of the Scientific Committee meetings, <http://apsoi.org/meeting-reports/Scientific%20Committee%20Meeting>
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- SIOFA CMMs (especially CMM 2020/01, CMM 2021/02, CMM 2019/12 and CMM 2019/13), <http://apsoi.org/cmm>

3. SUBMISSION of the INFORMATION and CONFIDENTIALITY

The Consultant shall submit all the information collected to the SIOFA Secretariat (including that sourced from the Secretariat) before the final payment of the contract

is made to the consultant. Such information includes electronic data files, analysis codes, biological samples, and other relevant data if applicable. Any arrangements for ownership, storage, or disposal of physical samples shall be agreed by SIOFA as a part of the contract. All Intellectual Property generated as a part of this contract shall become the property of SIOFA unless otherwise excluded in the proposal and agreed by SIOFA in the contract. The consultant shall not release confidential data provided for conducting this study to any persons nor any organisations, other than SIOFA Secretariat. The consultant shall delete all the confidential data upon the completion of the contract.

4. REPORTS

The Consultant shall provide the following reports to the SIOFA Secretariat:

- A project inception report, at least 2 weeks prior to starting technical work. The inception report will outline the tasks to be undertaken, a schedule for undertaking those tasks and an indication of resources used and/or required, including any SIOFA support.
- Interim, progress reports on both the project activities overall and on each ToR. These will be provided, in writing, at least 1 week in advance of scheduled quarterly teleconference meetings (see Project Monitoring below).
- A draft final report at the completion of the project.
- A final report within 2 weeks of receiving SIOFA's comments on the draft final report.

5. PROJECT MONITORING

Quarterly web-based meetings will be held between the consultant(s), the Chair of the PAEWG and the SIOFA Science Manager, Dr. Gary Morgan to review project progress and to address any issues that may arise.

6. SUBMISSION of APPLICATIONS

The applicants should have experience in undertaking ERAs and ERAEFs in commercial fisheries. In addition, the applicants should have an understanding of commercial fishing and be able to work in identifying practical mitigation measures for reducing the impacts of fishing on vulnerable species.

If these conditions are satisfied, then follow the next steps to apply this consultancy:

The applicant(s) should submit a proposal that contains the following items:

- A current CV that summarises the applicant(s) relevant educational background and professional experience.
- A brief proposal outlining the proposed methods and analyses, including a description of how the objectives of the ToR will be achieved.
- Any proposed exclusions to the intellectual property clause.
- Identification of any project risks and associated mitigation and management required to successfully complete the project.
- A statement that identifies any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest of the applicant(s), including those described in paragraph 4 of the SIOFA recruitment procedure (see below); and
- Any additional information the applicant(s) wish to submit.

Conflicts of interest: Paragraph 4 of SIOFA’s Recruitment Procedure

To ensure that situations relating to potential and actual conflict of interests are avoided, persons falling into the following categories may not normally be considered for SIOFA consultancy: (i). any person designated as a designated representative or alternate representative of a CCP to the Meeting of Parties (MOP) as per Rule 3.1 of the Rules of Procedure, and to the SC and any other subsidiary bodies of the MOP, as per Rule 21.3 of the Rules of Procedure; (ii). any person fulfilling the function of Chair or Vice-Chair of the MOP or Chair or Vice-Chair of a SIOFA subsidiary body or working group; (iii). any person acting as a member of a delegation involved in the SIOFA decision-making process resulting in recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA work requiring the engagement of a consultant; and (iv). individuals who were SIOFA Secretariat staff members at the time when the recommendations and/or approval for the SIOFA works were adopted or who are members of immediate family (e.g., spouse or partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister) of any Secretariat staff member or of the persons identified in 4 (i), (ii), and (iii).

Announcement of Call for the consultant will be placed in the SIOFA home page in October/November 2021 and will be circulated to all Cooperating and Contacting Parties (CCPs).

The application must be submitted to Thierry Clot, Executive Secretary, Thierry.clot@siofa.org, by 11th November 2021.

7. WORK PLAN and PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The following Table describes the work plan and the payment schedule. The consultant shall follow this work plan.

Work Period	TOR	Activities
21 st October – 11 th November 2021		Call for the consultant through the SIOFA web site and also through the circulation to Cooperating and Contacting Parties (CCPs) (3 weeks).
15 th November 2021		Selection of the consultant by Secretariat in consultation with the Project Manager

Work Period	TOR	Activities
		and others included in the evaluation panel.
Start of project technical work		18 th November 2021
25 th November 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Inception Report submitted to Secretariat (Payment of €1,000 on submission of satisfactory Inception report as approved by Project Manager and SC Chair)
25 th November 2021 – 24 th January 2022	ToR1: Document the seabird and mammal species that commonly interact with fishing activity in the SIOFA area and undertake Ecological Risk Assessments for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) on those species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToR1 draft report, by 24th January 2022 to the Secretariat (Payment of €2,000 on submission of satisfactory Project progress and ToR1 final report under 2 weeks).
25 th January – 7 ^h March 22 nd 2022	TOR2: Using SIOFA and industry databases, assemble and document the important bycatch species taken during fishing operations within the SIOFA area and undertake Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) on these species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToR2 draft report, by 18th February 2022 to the Secretariat (Payment of €2,000 on submission of satisfactory Project progress report and TOR2 final report under 2 weeks).
7 th – 10 th March 2022.	TOR3: Provide recommendations for mitigating the impacts of fishing on bycatch species, seabirds, and mammals, particularly those that are assessed by the ERA work as being significantly at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present progress report to PAEWG meeting, by 10th March 2022 ToR3 final report, March 2022 (Payment of €2,000 on submission of satisfactory ToR3 report and Project Progress report under 2 weeks).
4 th – 16 th April 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and submission of draft final project report.
16 th -30 th April 2022		Review of draft Project Final Report and submission of Project Final report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Payment of €3, 000 on submission of satisfactory Final Report).

8. CONTACT PERSONS

SIOFA Secretariat (administrative matters) Thierry Clot, SIOFA Executive Secretary, thierry.clot@siofa.org.

Mr Patrice Pruvost, PAEWG chairperson, patrice.pruvost@mnhn.fr for technical matters.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA for the SELECTION of CANDIDATES

The selection criteria will be developed by the evaluation panel along with the project manager, the Secretariat, and the Chairpersons of the relevant subsidiary bodies. The criteria may include following items:

- Adequate submission of information to allow the panel to evaluate the candidate.
- Evaluation of the proposal from the candidate.
- Ability to undertake and complete the analyses or work required in the ToR.
- The candidate's agreement with confidentiality provisions required for the project.
- Acceptable conflict of interest statement.
- Agreement with the data submission and intellectual property terms required in this ToR; and
- Financial and resourcing considerations