

SIOFA Scientific Committee Work Plan

The SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) Work Plan provides the overarching plan to guide the SC in providing advice to the Meeting of the Parties (MoP). The SC Work Plan is required under the SC Terms of Reference and needs to be provided to the Meeting of the Parties. The SC Work Plan, including work undertaken as part of the associated Research Priorities Plan and Operational Work Plan, will be undertaken in accordance with articles 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(b) of the SIOFA Agreement.

This SC Work Plan is intended to ensure scientific rigour is applied to scientific decision making processes in SIOFA. The Work Plan is supported by a Research Priorities Plan and an Operational Work Plan.

The timeframe for the SC Work Plan is 3-5 years and it will be reviewed annually in accordance with the SC Terms of Reference.

Scientific Committee Work Plan themes

At SIOFA 1, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that the Scientific Committee's Work Plan should include, but not be limited to, the following priority 'themes':

- Scientific data standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data
- Advice on vulnerable marine ecosystems
- Current and historical status of fishing activities
- Stock assessments
- Advice on the impacts of fishing on associated and dependent species
- Any other advice that the MoP requests.

The SC will adopt these themes as basis for its first work plan.

Additional work of the SC may include:

- contribution to the formulation of Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standards (BFIAS) for the SIOFA area
- advice on new and exploratory fisheries;
- advice on the scientific aspects of CMMs.

Themes may be added or removed depending on the objectives of the SC and in response to directions from the MoP and other relevant SIOFA bodies.