

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES TO THE SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT (SIOFA)**

### **SIOFA HARVEST STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT (PROJECT SER2020-01)**

The Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) calls for a short-term consultancy to undertake a project within a broader objective to develop harvest strategies for key target species. This document provides an introduction and describes the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project.

Consultancy process in SIOFA are guided by the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure (available at <http://apsoi.org/scientific-committee>)

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The fifth session of the SIOFA Meeting of the Parties (MoP5) in 2018 requested the SIOFA Scientific Committee (SC) to develop a framework and work plan for the establishment of harvest strategies for key SIOFA stocks (para. 53, MoP5 report). Following this, the SIOFA SC proposed six key elements (requirements) for consideration as part of SIOFA harvest strategies and/or a SIOFA harvest strategy framework, including:

- (i) Definition of management/operational objectives;
- (ii) Limit and target reference points;
- (iii) Consideration of risk of breaching reference points and how this will be dealt with, for example through the use of precautionary reference points and/or discount factors/buffers to deal with assessment uncertainty;
- (iv) Monitoring and feedback mechanisms to ensure objectives are being/will be met, and what actions should apply when indicators demonstrate concerns that objectives may not be (or are not being) met;
- (v) Decision rules (e.g. harvest control rules) for achieving target reference points and avoiding moving below limit reference points; and
- (vi) Processes for evaluating harvest strategies (including Management Strategy Evaluation).

In the medium term, SIOFA requires a harvest strategy framework that addresses the elements above. Such a framework would allow consistency in the application of harvest strategy elements across SIOFA fisheries, thus improving efficiency and transparency around relevant decision-

making processes. However, as a first step the SIOFA Scientific Committee is looking to recommend relevant targets and limit reference points. Due to the relatively low value and volume of SIOFA fisheries, relatively low investment in science and research, and because key target stocks are not currently overfished and overfishing is not thought to be occurring, there is not an urgent need for complex harvest strategies and the frameworks that guide their implementation.

However, in order to inform and allow development of harvest strategies, SIOFA requires the development of target and limit reference points for its exploited stocks. This project aims to provide the scientific advice to allow the SIOFA Scientific Committee to recommend to the Meeting of Parties appropriate target and limit reference points for its stocks.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Terms of Reference are:

1. Provide an overview of the target and limit reference points (including  $B_{MSY}$  proxies), harvest strategies, frameworks, and guidelines in use by SIOFA Contracting Parties, CCAMLR, and relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs);
2. Evaluate and make recommendations for alternative choices of candidate target and limit reference points for possible use in SIOFA, noting:
  - a. SIOFA's desire for a generic approach for target and limit reference points;
  - b. The extent that reference points would take into account the level of uncertainty in SIOFA stock assessments, the characteristics of SIOFA fisheries and SIOFA as an organization, and the biology and life-history characteristics of key species, and noting the data-limited nature of some fisheries/stocks; and
  - c. The extent that the reference points can be applied across straddling stocks.
3. Report on the review and recommendations, and make recommendations about 'next steps'

The consultant shall work as closely as possible with the Project Manager, SIOFA SC and WG chairs, and the SIOFA Secretariat.

The working period by the Consultant is expected to be 25 days. Refer to the timeline in Section 9.

## **3. INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR THE CONSULTANT**

The consultant should draw on their expertise and understanding of harvest strategies (in particular, reference points) and harvest strategy frameworks used domestically by national jurisdictions and those used by other RFMOs. Useful references may include:

- Harvest strategies used by CCAMLR, RFMOs and in domestic regulation for SIOFA fishing nations

- [Australia's Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines](#)
- [Australian National Guidelines to develop fishery harvest strategies](#)
- [New Zealand's Harvest Strategy Standard and Guidelines](#)
- [Management Strategy Evaluation for NZ Orange roughy](#)

Other resources (e.g. stock assessment papers, SC and working group reports) will either be available on the SIOFA website ([www.siofa.org](http://www.siofa.org)) or provided by the Secretariat or project manager/s.

#### **4. INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is not anticipated that the consultant will need to access any confidential catch or effort data in order to undertake this work, but there may be a need for the consultant to use such confidential data and/or access restricted papers (e.g., stock assessments or documents characterising fisheries). Broad information on the characteristics of SIOFA fisheries is appended to each SIOFA SC report (as the 'SIOFA Overview of Fisheries') and the Secretariat will provide any confidential data and/or restricted papers to the consultant.

The consultant shall not release confidential information to anybody or any organisation. The Consultant shall delete any confidential data and information immediately after the contract is terminated.

#### **5. REPORT**

The consultant shall produce one report and present the report to the SIOFA Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG) describing the findings of their investigation in relation to the ToR. The report should include recommendations on each component of the ToR, as well as recommendations about 'next steps'. The report should also note the relevant entities (e.g., SC or the MoP, or other stakeholders) who are required as part of ongoing discussions and decision-making processes.

The Consultant will work for 20 days and shall submit the draft report. SIOFA Contracting Parties will review the draft, provide comments, and request revisions and/or additional works if needed (up to 5 days). The Consultant will complete the requests and submit the final report two weeks later. Relevant information collected by the Consultant shall be submitted to the Secretariat.

The consultant shall follow the timeline of the submission of the draft and final report as described in Section 8.

#### **6. PAYMENTS**

The SIOFA Secretariat will pay the total EURO 15,000 as an honorarium.

- The Secretariat will pay EURO 7,500 within two weeks of the Consultant's submission of the draft report (January or February 2021).
- The Secretariat will pay the remaining EURO 7,500 within 2 weeks after the termination of the contract, which is the final day of the 2021 SERAWG meeting.

## **7. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

In accordance with the SIOFA Consultant Recruitment Procedure, applicants should submit a proposal that contains the following:

- An up-to-date copy of their CV that summarises the candidate's relevant experience;
- A document outlining the proposed methods and analyses, including a description of how the objectives of the ToR will be achieved;
- A plan for engagement with key stakeholders;
- Specification of the final report, and any other reports, presentations, or other project outputs that will be produced for the contract;
- 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 candidate, including those described in paragraph 4 of the SIOFA recruitment procedure;
- A commitment to adhering to the confidentiality requirements; and
- Any additional information the candidate wishes to submit.

The evaluation of proposals against these criteria will be undertaken by the evaluation panel (at least 4 members, selected by SIOFA) along with the project manager, the Secretariat and the Chairpersons of the SC and/or other relevant subsidiary body(ies).

The announcement of the call for a consultant will be placed on the website in the SIOFA home page for three weeks and will be circulated to all Cooperating and Contacting Parties (CCPs). Expressions of interest should be sent to Mr Thierry CLOT (Executive Secretary), [thierry.clot@siofa.org](mailto:thierry.clot@siofa.org) by 11th December 2020.

## **8. PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL REPORT TO THE 2021 STOCK AND ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING**

The Consultant shall attend and present the report to the next SERAWG meeting (tentatively March 2021). If a physical meeting eventuates, SIOFA will cover the costs of travel and accommodation, if required and allowed by SIOFA.

## 9. TIMELINE

The consultant shall follow the timeline described below.

Year	Month	Activities
2020	11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Post the announcement of call for the Consultant to the SIOFA web site (three weeks) and circulate it to official scientific contacts of CCPs (Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties and Participating Fishing Entities).</li> <li>● Selection of a Consultant from applicants; Secretariat to draft a contract.</li> </ul>
2021	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The consultant shall produce a draft report to SIOFA for review.</li> <li>● The Secretariat will pay EURO 7,500 within two weeks of the Consultant's submission of the draft report (January or February 2021).</li> <li>● Official scientific contacts of CCPs will review the draft, provide comments, and request revisions and/or additional works if needed.</li> <li>● The Consultant will complete the requests and submit the final report within two weeks.</li> <li>● Relevant information collected by the Consultant shall be submitted to the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The consultant shall attend and present the report to the 2021 SERAWG meeting (scheduled for early March 2021).</li> <li>● The consultant will finalise the report and submit it and all project related information and data to the Secretariat.</li> <li>● The Consultant will delete all the confidential data and documents provided by the Secretariat immediately after the conclusion of the contract.</li> <li>● The Secretariat will pay EURO 7,500 (the remaining half of the honorarium) in two weeks after the submission of the final report and satisfactory conclusion of the contract.</li> </ul>

## 10. CONTACT PERSONS

SIOFA Secretariat

Thierry CLOT, Executive Secretary [thierry.clot@siofa.org](mailto:thierry.clot@siofa.org)

SIOFA Secretariat [secretariat@siofa.org](mailto:secretariat@siofa.org)

Project manager

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SERAWG Co-chair