



WWF: Analysis on the remaining unregulated fishing in the Indian Ocean region- current activities, impacts and options for the future

Terms of Reference for Consultancy

WWF has been awarded funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to work on a 4-year (2017-2020) project entitled “Sustainable Fisheries – Supporting Livelihoods, Equity, and Ecosystems in South Western Indian Ocean Communities”. This project aims to increase the sustainability of fishing activities, and ultimately contribute to food security and poverty alleviation in South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) states, including Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania. The project is being primarily delivered, and coordinated by a number of WWF offices based in the SWIO region, including WWF-Kenya, WWF-Madagascar, WWF-Mozambique and WWF-Tanzania, but delivery of certain elements of the project are supported by, and coordinated with WWF offices in Europe, particularly the WWF European Policy Office (EPO) based in Brussels, Belgium.

The role of WWF EPO within the project is to help leverage the technical expertise and political influence of the European Union – specifically the European Commission – to improve efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

One aspect, which requires further scrutiny, is the remaining unregulated fishing in the region. Unregulated fishing refers in international law to fishing activities “*in the area of application of a relevant regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner that is not consistent with or contravenes the conservation and management measures of that organization; or in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures and where such fishing activities are conducted in a manner inconsistent with State responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law*”¹. In this context, unregulated fishing is another type of illegal fishing activity. Notwithstanding these definitions of what is considered “unregulated fishing” in international law, certain unregulated fishing activities may take place in a manner which is not in violation of applicable international law, and may not require the application of measures envisaged under the International Plan of Action (IPOA). However, with a clear distinction, this will be also considered in the study when it is coming to high sea fisheries.

¹ FAO, International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Rome, FAO. 2001. 24p.

With no applicable regulations and no conservation and management measures governing emerging fisheries such as the squid fishery, there are several potential concerns, including the risk of overexploitation that could lead to a demise or possible crash of those stocks with a domino effect on other dependant species in the food web. For instance, in the past squid fisheries have been documented as being unregulated in the IO². Squid represent an important link between the significant biomass of lower trophic levels and oceanic predators in many if not all pelagic food webs. Squid are important prey for 12 predatory species in the Western Indian Ocean, especially bigeye tuna and swordfish. If the squid fisheries are a relevant example of the kind of unregulated fishing that have an impact on commercial fisheries in the region, other remaining unregulated fishing need to be exposed to understand risks for fish stocks and policies adapted accordingly.

Project Objectives & Methodology

- Tracking and analysing satellite data (AIS, VMS) to target hotspots of unregulated fishing activities in the high sea
- Gather information on vessels identity (including beneficial owner information if possible) and activities (authorisations, etc.) including point of landing
- If possible include information on the trade of these “unregulated” fish products with a focus on the European Union trade if related.

Assessment of impact in the SWIO

- Defined management gaps in terms of species and areas against unregulated observed fishing activities
- Detailed state of play – define characteristics of unregulated fishing operations and their histories in the SWIO
- Impact for region – consider the dynamics of the fishing effort within the region and the impact that unregulated fishing has on national fisheries, also consider other aspects e.g. overfishing, environmental impacts (for instance if biodiversity hotspots are in same areas than unregulated fishing hotspots) and the link with international trade

The future – recommendations for better sustainability and implementation

This part will be written in cooperation with WWF.

- Challenges – consider the challenges of having a governing body or a mechanism to manage unregulated fisheries
- Opportunities – consider the benefits of managing unregulated stocks and opportunities they may offer going forward
- Alternatives – consider any other alternatives management measures such as trade measures of the EU and a driver for sustainable fisheries governance.

Delivery on the above described work will largely require desktop research work, synthesizing information available from websites, online publications, and other materials. There is a general expectation that facts are

² <https://fish-i-africa.org/new-fish-i-report-squid-capture-in-the-northwest-indian-ocean-unregulated-fishing-on-the-high-seas/>

cross-checked with key experts in and on the region and in particular, further information gathering via interviews may be required. The first point of reference for these interviews should always be WWF staff in the SWIO region who can then provide guidance on the key officials, delegates and experts who can provide further desired insights.

Deliverables & Proposed Timeline

- By July – Appointment of consultant/signature of contract
- By August – Preliminary draft outline and research plan (including priority interviews)
- By September – Draft Report completed
- By early October - Delivery of Final Report following comments from WWF

Instructions for Applicants

We are looking for a consultant with expertise in the field of fisheries management and in particular monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) technologies. Experience working, and knowledge of the challenges with the fisheries sectors in the Indian Ocean would be a major advantage. The ability to synthesise technical information and excellent report writing skills (in English) are essential.

Proposals should include the relevant background of the consultant(s) involved, CVs of consultants who will participate in the project, and a cost estimate for the project. Interested experts, institutions and or consortia should send their letter of intent with the relevant documents to the contact below by email no later than close of business **Friday 26 July**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

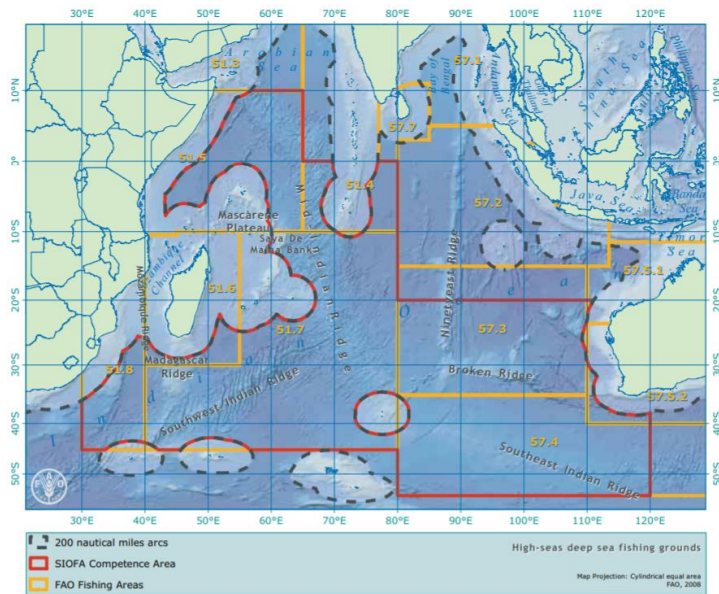
Project Manager:

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Annexes

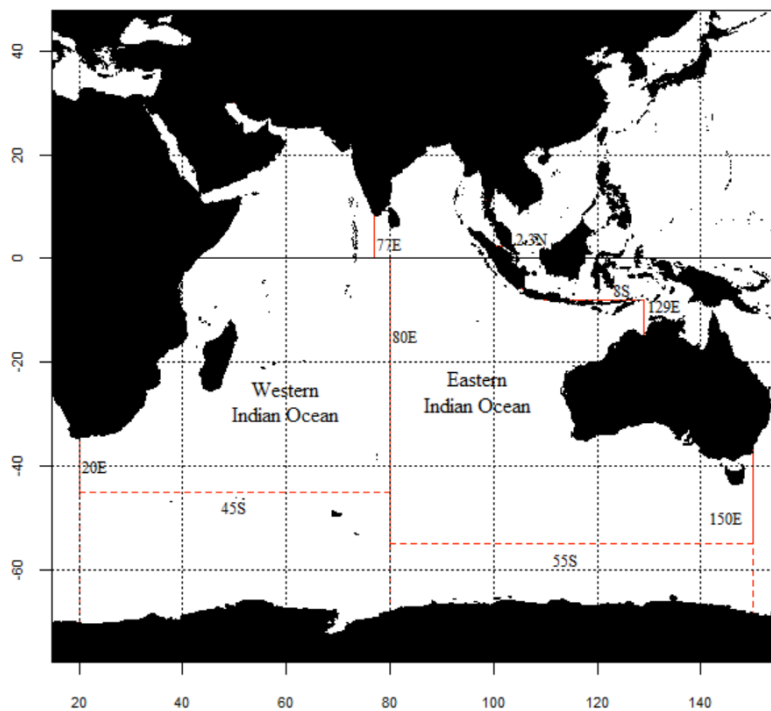
RFMOs areas of competences

SIOFA:



MAP 1
Main high seas deep-sea fishing grounds in the Indian Ocean and area of competence of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

IOTC :



RFMOs targeted species

IOTC:

FAO English name	FAO French name	Scientific name	FAO Code
Yellowfin tuna	Albacore	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	YFT
Skipjack	Listao; Bonite à ventre rayé	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	SKJ
Bigeye tuna	Patudo; Thon obèse	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	BET
Albacore tuna	Germon	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	ALB
Southern Bluefin tuna	Thon rouge du sud	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	SBT
Longtail tuna	Thon mignon	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	LOT
Kawakawa	Thonine orientale	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	KAW
Frigate tuna	Auxide	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	FRI
Bullet tuna	Bonitou	<i>Auxis rochei</i>	BLT
Narrow barred Spanish Mackerel	Thazard rayé	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	COM
Indo-Pacific king mackerel	Thazard ponctué	<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>	GUT
Blue Marlin	Makaire bleu	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	BUM
Black Marlin	Makaire noir	<i>Makaira indica</i>	BLM
Striped Marlin	Marlin rayé	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	MLS
Indo-Pacific Sailfish	Voilier de l'Indo-Pacifique	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	SFA
Swordfish	Espadon	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	SWO

SIOFA:

<https://www.apsoi.org/species-list>