

# South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

Aubrey Harris  
SWIOFC Secretary  
FAO

ESA Fish Workshop, Tanzania,  
14 to 17 March 2006

# South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

What is it

- Operation
- Work Program
- Conclusion: How Organizations and Associations can participate

# What is it?

- An advisory fisheries commission under Article VI of the FAO Constitution with agreed Statutes, Articles of Constitution, Rules of Procedure
- **Objective:** Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States, the Commission shall promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the area of the Commission, by the proper management and development of the living marine resources, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the Members of the Commission.
- **Eligible Members (voting):** Comoros, European Community, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania and Yemen
- **Automatic right to attend:**  
UN Organisations: UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, WB, etc
- **Observers:** Regional Economic Organisations, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Donors, NGOs,

# Operation (1)

- Session – Annual -requirement at least biennial
  - Hosted by Chairing country
  - Scientific Committee (Annual – 3 months prior)
    - to advise on the scientific basis for possible regulatory measures to be considered for adoption by the members of the Commission.
    - Hosted on invitation
  - Allows for other Committees or working parties – requirement
- Provision for decisions by majority secret vote.
- **Languages:** English and French.
  - Requirement for provisional Agenda and main working documents two months prior

# Operation (1)

- Rotating Chair and Bureau – elected at end of a Session
  - **Chair:** Mr Rodrigues Bila, PS, Ministry of Fisheries, Mozambique
  - **Vice:** Mr Rondolph Payet, MD, SFA, Seychelles
  - **Vice:** Mrs Nancy Gitonga, DoF, Fisheries Dept, Kenya
- Secretary and Secretariat
  - **Secretary:** Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO-SAFR, Harare
  - **Technical support:** Fisheries Resources, Fisheries Industries, Fisheries Policy, FAO, Rome
  - **Administrative support:** FAO-SAFR, Harare

Consideration of a satellite office to locate some Secretarial resources one of the member countries

# Work program

- Review of Marine Capture Fisheries Management in the South West Indian Ocean
- Regional MCS (COI/IOTC- Steering Committee)
- Ecosystem approaches to Fisheries Management through an FAO/SIDA project
  - Support to participation in the SIOFA
  - Safety at sea for fishers
- Link with SWIOFP (Plenary meeting Maputo 2004, decision 2nd Session SWIOFC)
- Link with a Fisheries Investment fund for Subsaharan Africa (Regional Advisory Committee)
- Scientific Committee (May 2006)
- Preparation:
  - Status of fisheries development in the region and its contribution to food security and poverty alleviation. To include *inter alia* tuna fisheries, eco-labelling and improvement of fish quality and standards.
  - Compliance Structure

# Conclusion

## SWIOFC:

- A high-level forum to address common problems of fisheries management and development in the Southwest Indian Ocean.

## Participation:

- Organisations and Associations at this workshop may wish to participate and contribute to this forum

## How:

- Through Country delegations
- Through regional and international NGOs as observers