
SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT

A Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, held on 7 July 2006 at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, adopted the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

In accordance with its Article 22, the Agreement was opened for signature from 7 July 2006 to 6 July 2007 by all States and the regional economic integration organization that participated in the Inter-Governmental Consultation on the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and any other State having jurisdiction over waters adjacent to the Area (defined in Article 3 of the Agreement).

The Agreement is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatories. The Agreement is also open for accession by any State or regional economic integration organization referred to in Article 22 (1) and by any other State or regional economic integration organization interested in fishing activities in relation to the fishery resources defined in Article 1 (f).

In accordance with Article 24, the Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the fourth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, at least two of which should be deposited by coastal States bordering the Area. Given that this requirement was met on 23 March 2012, the Agreement entered into force on **21 June 2012**.

The Agreement was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations under No. 49647 on 21 June 2012.

Signatories and Parties to the Agreement:

The following are the signatories and the participants that deposited their instruments on the dates indicated:

Participant	Signature	Ratification	Approval	Accession
Australia	29 Dec 2006	23 Mar 2012		
China ¹				23 Sept 2019
Comoros	7 Jul 2006			
Cook Islands				5 Jun 2008
European Union, Member Organization	7 Jul 2006		15 Oct 2008	
France	7 Jul 2006	25 Jan 2013		
Japan				17 Jun 2014

¹ In respect of Macao Special Administrative Region.

Kenya	7 Jul 2006			
Madagascar	4 Oct 2006			
Mauritius	5 Jul 2007	10 Dec 2010		
Mozambique	7 Jul 2006			
New Zealand	7 Jul 2006			
Republic of Korea				29 Oct 2014
Seychelles	7 Jul 2006	5 Nov 2007		
Thailand				21 Apr 2017

Reservations

Reservations by Mauritius (original in English):

“(i) The State of Mauritius is defined in the Laws of Mauritius as including the island of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and any other island comprised in the State of Mauritius;

(ii) The State of Mauritius reiterates its rights to exercise complete and full sovereignty over its territory, including the territory and maritime zones of the Chagos Archipelago and Tromelin as defined in the Constitution of Mauritius; and

(iii) Membership acquired to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement through territories found partly within the South West Indian Ocean region covered by the Agreement shall not constitute a basis for denying the rights of the Republic of Mauritius regarding the exercise of its sovereignty or territorial and maritime jurisdiction on the Chagos Archipelago, Tromelin and surrounding maritime areas.”