

PROPOSAL ON A SCOPING STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF IOTC FISHERIES

SUBMITTED BY: SEYCHELLES, COMOROS, KENYA, MAURITIUS, SRI LANKA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Explanatory Memorandum

At the 2017 Commission meeting, the Seychelles and Sri Lanka presented Proposal G Rev 1 *Working Party on the Socio-Economic Aspects of the Fisheries the IOTC Area of the Competence*. This proposal sought to give effect to paragraph 2(d) of Article V of the IOTC Agreement, which requires the Commission “*to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by this Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of development coastal States*”. This aspect of Article V that has not, to date, been well integrated into the work of the Commission.

Unfortunately, and although well supported, the proposal was not adopted by the Commission. One of the key concerns raised was the lack of socio-economic data available to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to support the work outlined in the proposal. The Commission noted there is a “*dearth of information available on the social and economic aspects of tuna fisheries in general, and expressed its desire to begin to collect relevant social and economic information, and use it when both developing and evaluating IOTC management measures*” (paragraph 119). To support this effort, the Commission also “*requested the Secretariat to implement a scoping study to identify what types of social and economic data are most relevant to CPCs and IOTC*”.

As such, this proposal seeks to address this deficiency by providing Terms of Reference for the development of **Socio-Economic Data Standards and Indicators**. These data standards and indicators would be used to inform the submission of socio-economic data from CPCs.

RESOLUTION 18/XX**ON A SCOPING STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF IOTC FISHERIES**

Keywords: Socio-Economics, scoping study.

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

CONSIDERING the objectives of the Commission to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the objective of the Commission to maintain stocks in perpetuity and with high probability, at levels not less than those capable of producing their maximum sustainable yield as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors including the special requirements of developing States in the IOTC area of competence;

RECOGNISING the special requirements of the developing states, particularly Small Island Developing States in Article 24, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA).

RECALLING paragraph 75 of the 20th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee report (IOTC-2017-SC20-R) that states:

“75. The SC AGREED that the development of the ecosystem report card is a first step in developing the approach. Initiating the process with the development and monitoring of simple indicators and then linking these to management objectives and actions is an iterative process where the data collection and research activities are based on higher level guidance from the Commission. The SC noted that the consideration of socioeconomic dimensions are specifically mentioned in the IOTC Agreement and so the scientific subsidiary bodies are therefore mandated to work on these issues as well.”

RECALLING Article IV, paragraph 2(d) of the IOTC Agreement which states:

“2. In order to achieve these objectives, the Commission shall have the following functions and responsibilities, in accordance with the principles expressed in the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: (d) to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by this Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal state”

ADOPTS in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article IX of the IOTC Agreement, that:

1. The terms of reference for a scoping study of socio-economic aspects of IOTC fisheries, are those specified in Annex I.
2. Pursuant to Article XII.5 of the Agreement, the Commission shall review the results of the scoping study and determine if a permanent Working Party on the Socio-Economic Aspects of the Fisheries the IOTC Area of the Competence is needed, at its 23rd Session in 2019.
3. The IOTC Secretariat shall allocate funds for the consultancy, from the existing IOTC budget, taking into consideration the terms of reference specified in Annex I.

ANNEX I
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SCOPING STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INDICATORS OF IOTC FISHERIES

Objectives

1. To identify the socio-economic indicators that would describe *inter alia* the respective CPC economic dependence on fishery resources, the social importance of the fishery, the contribution of fisheries to national food security needs through domestic consumption, income generated from fisheries including from exports, and employment;
2. To evaluate and document what socio-economic data have been, and are currently collected by CPCs or other organisations that are in the public domain, on IOTC fisheries;
3. To evaluate and document what socio-economic data have been, and are currently collected by CPCs or other organisations but are not in the public domain on IOTC fisheries;
4. To evaluate if a) the data can be feasibly and uniformly collected, and b) would be adequate to calculate the indicators proposed. This should include a discussion on the data themselves, data quality, time periods and coverage rates;
5. To make recommendations on data requirements and harmonisation; and
6. To make recommendations on data management, reporting and associated costs to IOTC.

Outputs

7. A draft of the Consultant's report will be provided 120 days in advance of the 23rd Session of the IOTC (S23) in 2019.
8. The CPCs shall be tasked to review the report and provide feedback to the Consultant 60 days before the 23rd Session of the IOTC (S23), via the IOTC Secretariat.
9. The final Consultant's report shall be submitted to the IOTC Secretariat no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the 23rd Session in 2019, in accordance with the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2014).
10. The final Consultant's report should be presented to the Commission for consideration at its meeting in 2019 and a presentation by the Consultant during the Session to answer any questions from CPCs.