



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

IOTC–2017–S21–PropG[E]

WORKING PARTY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE FISHERIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

SUBMITTED BY: SEYCHELLES 21 APRIL 2017

Explanatory Memorandum

Article V of the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission provides for the objectives, functions and responsibilities of the Commission. The Article provides the Commission for ensuring through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the Agreement and encourage sustainable development of the fisheries based on such stocks.

In order to achieve these objectives, amongst others the Commission is 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 states.

Until now the Commission have not taken into consideration the socio-economic aspect of these fisheries. This proposal is for the formulation of a working party to address this deficiency in the work of the Commission.

RESOLUTION 17/XX

**WORKING PARTY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT OF THE FISHERIES
IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

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;

BEING MINDFUL of Article XVI of the IOTC Agreement regarding the rights of Coastal States and of Article 87 and 116 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

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);

FURTHER RECALLING that Article 6, of UNFSA, requires the states to be cautious during the application of precautionary approach when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and this should not be a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

CONSIDERING the recommendations adopted by the KOBE II, held in San Sebastian, Spain, June 23 – July 3 2009; implementing where appropriate a freeze on fishing capacity on a fishery by fishery basis and such a freeze should not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries by developing coastal States.

FURTHER CONSIDERING the recommendations adopted by the KOBE III, held in La Jolla, California, 11- 15 July 2011; considering the status of the stocks, each RFMO should consider a scheme for reduction of over capacity in a way that does not constrain the access to, development of, and benefit from sustainable tuna fisheries, including on the high seas, by developing coastal States, in particular small island developing States, territories, and States with small and vulnerable economies; and Transfer of capacity from developed fishing members to developing coastal fishing members within its area of competence where appropriate.

FURTHER CONSIDERING the call by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/75 upon the states to increase the reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures and to take into account the special requirements of developing states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;

ADOPTS, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, paragraph 1 of the IOTC Agreement, the following;



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1. A working group is created to assess and advise the Commission, the socio-economic consequences to CPCs, arising from implementation of Conservation and Management Measures and recommendations of the Scientific Committee.
2. This working group would be of multi-sectoral nature, involving various stakeholders, fisheries officers, socio-economists, fishery managers, Fishing Industry Representatives, administrators and other interested stakeholders, in accordance with the IOTC rules of procedure.
3. The working group shall;
 - a. collect and compile information about past and present socio-economic indicators including but not limited to socio-economic contribution to the fisheries, respective economic dependence on fish stocks, economic and social importance of the fishery, contribution to national food security needs, domestic consumption, income from exports and employment.
 - b. review the requirements of collection of data on the socio-economic indicators
 - c. assess the socio-economic impacts of recommendations by the Scientific Committee on that fisheries and provide advice to the Commission
 - d. Frequency of the meetings to be biennial.
4. The IOTC secretariat should consider using the meeting participation fund (MPF) to facilitate participation of socio-economists from coastal CPCs who would contribute significantly to the working group.
5. All data collected by the working group shall be subject to the confidentiality policy and procedures set forth in Resolution 12/02.