



**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING PARTY ON THE SOCIO-  
ECONOMICS ASPECT OF THE FISHERIES IN THE IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE**

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**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 utilisation of stocks covered by the Agreement and encourages the sustainable development of the fisheries based on such stocks.

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 the interests of developing coastal states.

At its 21st session, Seychelles and Sri Lanka submitted a proposal to establish a Working Party on the Socio-Economic Aspect of the Fisheries in the IOTC area of competence. This proposal sought to give effect to paragraph 2(d) of Article V of the IOTC. Subsequently, at its 22nd session, the Commission adopted Resolution 18/09 which detailed the requirements for a scoping study on socio-economic data and indicators of IOTC fisheries. The results of the study were presented at the 23rd session of the IOTC Commission in 2019. The following was noted by the Commission:

- i. Concerns raised by some members regarding the ability to compare and verify social and economic information and data;
- ii. The importance of identifying key data and agreeing on criteria on how to report them;
- iii. The dependence of CPCs on fishing was not comprehensively addressed;
- iv. Some CPCs expressed support for the creation of a dedicated working group to continue the discussions on socio-economic issues;

In addition, the Commission acknowledged that socio-economic information has a wide application in fisheries management and is not exclusive to allocation matters.

Socio-economic data are a key component of the scientific advice required for the evidence-based management of fisheries, yet in many countries, these data are limited, usually because of a lack of technical capacity for their collection. As such, this proposal seeks to establish a working party to identify socio-economic indicators and data standards that would be required to be submitted by CPCs as well as other sources of derived data, e.g., FAO, and World Bank. It further requires that in adopting any measures in relation to management, conservation, and optimum utilisation of stock, the Commission considers the need for the continuity of supplies and the potential impacts on the socio-economic development of developing coastal States from both primary and secondary activities.

This proposal also aims that the Commission considers the potential magnitude of impacts, both positive and negative, that resolutions and recommendations may have on developing coastal States, and the outcomes of such decisions are discussed particularly where there may be significant jeopardy to the national economies, or constrain coastal States development.

## RESOLUTION 23/XX

### ~~PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH~~ TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING PARTY ON ~~THE SOCIO-ECONOMICS 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 IOTC 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 the Coastal States and Articles 87 and 116 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) regarding the right to fish on the high seas;

RECOGNISING the special requirements of the developing states, particularly Small Island ~~De~~developing States (SIDS) 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 that Article 6 of the UNFSA requires States to apply the precautionary approach widely to the conservation, management, and exploitation of highly migratory fish stocks and that is under the precautionary approach;

FURTHER RECALLING ~~that Article 6, of UNFSA, that the precautionary approach requires~~ the states to be more cautious during the application of a precautionary approach when information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate and that the precautionary approach prescribes that the absence of scientific information this should not be a reason shall not be used as 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 overcapacity 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~~ SIDS, 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;

RECALLING Article XII.5 - Subsidiary Bodies of the IOTC AGREEMENT that states:

5. The Commission may, subject to the provisions of this Article, establish such committees, working parties or other subsidiary bodies as may be necessary for the purposes of this Agreement.

RECALLING RULE XIII.1 – The Other Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, of the IOTC Rules of Procedure (2022) that states:

1. Pursuant to Article XII.5 the Commission may also establish such committees, working parties or other subsidiary bodies as may be necessary for the purposes of the Agreement.

2. Pursuant to Article XII.5 of the Agreement, the Commission establishes the following permanent working parties which will act as advisory bodies to the Scientific Committee or the Commission.

MINDFUL that ~~s~~Socio-economic data are a key component of the scientific advice required for the evidence-based management of fisheries, yet in many countries, these data are limited, usually because of a lack of technical capacity for their collection.

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

1. Pursuant to Article XII, paragraph 5 of the Agreement, the Commission establishes a Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE).
2. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the WPSE are those specified in Annex I.
3. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure shall be incorporated, into the IOTC Rules of Procedure at its next revision.
4. This resolution shall expire upon incorporation into the next revision of the IOTC Rules of Procedure.

Annex I  
WORKING PARTY ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF  
PROCEDURE

1. ~~The Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE) shall~~~~A working group is created to inform the Commission on the socio-economic status and dynamics of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence and to assess and advise the Commission, on potential the socio-economic impacts consequences to CPCs, arising from the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures, allocation mechanisms of quotas and catch limits, and recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee.~~

Composition:

~~This working group would be multi-sectoral~~~~technical and scientific in nature and should be composed of stakeholders, experts and practitioners, in particular the following:~~

- a. ~~social scientists;~~
  - b. ~~economists;~~
  - c. ~~, involving various stakeholders that include fisheries officers;~~
  - a. ~~, social scientist;~~
  - d. ~~economists, fishery managers, invited experts,~~
2. ~~, fishing industry representatives, administrators, and other interested stakeholders, in accordance with the IOTC rules of procedure. The participation of the Chair of the Scientific Committee (or designee) in the working group WPSE shall be mandatory.~~

Mandate:

3. ~~The working group WPSE shall;~~
- a. ~~Establish the work plan for the WPSE.~~
  - a.b. ~~Identify, review, and agree recommend on appropriate and scientifically robust metrics and indicators to assess the social and ial and economic dynamics of fisheries, not limited to indicators suggested from the Scoping study of socio-economic data and indicators of IOTC fisheries conducted by the independent consultancy Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management.~~
  - a.c. ~~Identify and agree recommend on the reporting criteria and modalities of submitting the information to the IOTC Secretariat or sourcing the information from multilateral agreements and organisations, if not limited to CPC reports bearing in mind that this new data collection requirement should not be an administrative burden.~~
  - d. ~~Propose and promote:~~
    - i. ~~regionally harmonised and improved methods and tools for the collection and; management, and analyses of social and economic data as identified in subparagraph a.~~
    - ii. ~~and information on analysis of fisheries value chains to assess the social and economic and social state and dynamics of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.~~
    - iii. ~~analysis of the and the likely impact of fisheries management interventions CMMs on these factors.~~
  - b.e. ~~Provide guidance on data and indicator definitions to ensure a consistent approach to data and indicators across CPCs.~~
  - e.f. ~~Work closely with the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS) to cCollect and compile information about past and present social and e-economic indicators including but not limited to social and e-economic contribution to the of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence, respective economic dependence on fish stocks, the social and economic and social importance of the fishery, contribution to national food security needs, domestic consumption, income from exports, fisheries subsidies and employment.~~
  - d. ~~Develop the Review the requirements of collection of data on the socio-economic indicators.~~

~~e.g. a~~ Assessment framework to analyse the social and economic impacts arising from the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), allocation mechanisms of quotas and catch limits, and recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee. ~~of recommendations by the Scientific Committee on those fisheries provide advice to the Commission~~

~~f.h.~~ Support and coordinate capacity development and training initiatives in ~~the~~ its areas falling within of its mandate work.

~~g.i.~~ Frequency of the meetings to be biennial Meet annually with the first meeting being in-person and subsequent meetings being conducted either in person or in hybrid mode. [Acknowledging the IOTC budget constraints and IOTC Resolution 22/01, virtual meetings will be the preferred option, or for in-person meetings, the Secretariat will look for solutions to reduce meeting costs]

The IOTC ~~secretariat should consider using the~~ meeting participation fund (MPF) shall be used to fund a maximum of one (1) participant from each eligible CPC to facilitate and contribute to the mandate of the WPSE.

~~4. to facilitate the participation of the members from coastal CPCs who would contribute significantly to the work in~~

~~5.~~ All data collected by the ~~working group~~ WPSE shall be subject to the confidentiality policy and procedures outlined in Resolution 12/02 (or any superseding Resolutions).