
REVISION OF THE WPSE PROGRAM OF WORK (2026–2030)

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PURPOSE

To ensure that participants at the 2nd Working Party on Social Economics (WPSE02) develop the Program of Work for the WPTmT by taking into consideration the specific requests of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

BACKGROUND

Scientific Committee

At the 27th Session of the SC:

- (Para. 193) The SC NOTED IOTC–2024–SC27–08 which provided the SC with a proposed Program of Work for each of its working parties, including prioritization of the elements requested by each working party.
- (Para. 194) The SC **NOTED** the proposed Program of Work and priorities for the SC and each of the working parties and **AGREED** to a consolidated Program of Work as outlined in Appendix 36a-g. The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of each working party will ensure that the efforts of their respective working parties are focused on the core areas contained within the appendix, taking into account any new research priorities identified by the Commission at its next Session.

Commission

At Sessions of the Commission, Conservation and Management Measures adopted contained elements that call on the Scientific Committee, via the WPSE, to undertake specific tasks. These requests will need to be incorporated into a revised Program of Work for the WPSE:

Resolution 23/10 Terms of Reference for a Working Party on Socio-Economics

The Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE) shall 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 on potential impacts to CPCs arising from the Conservation and Management Measures, allocation of quotas and catch limits, and recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee

DISCUSSION

Participants at the WPSE are requested to consider the priorities set by the Commission and the Scientific Committee, via Conservation and Management Measures, and develop its Program of Work to match those priorities.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPSE:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–WPSE02–05, which encouraged the WPTmT to develop its Program of Work for 2026–2030 to align with the requests and directives from the Commission and Scientific Committee.
- 2) **RECOMMEND** a Program of Work for 2026–2030 to the Scientific Committee for its consideration and potential endorsement.

WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL ECONOMICS PROGRAM OF WORK (2026–2030)

The Program of Work consists of the following, noting that a timeline for implementation would be developed by the SC once it has agreed to the priority projects across all of its Working Parties:

- **Table 1:** Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to develop Social-Economic Indicators and advance Social-Economic studies for IOTC (2026-2030);
- **Table 2:** Stock assessment schedule.

Table 1. Priority topics for obtaining the information necessary to develop Social-Economic Indicators and advance Social-Economic studies for IOTC (2026-2030)

Topic	Sub-topic and project	Priority	Timing				
			2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1	Social and Economic Indicators	High, short term (1)					
	1.1 Conduct a review of existing social and economic indicators. Recommend indicators that are relevant to the aims of the IOTC and are achievable to collect and monitor long-term.						
	1.2 Ensure that indicators are organised based on current or relevant future programmes of work and can be mapped to current resolutions e.g. allocation, impact of CMMs on socioeconomics, harvest strategies.						
	1.3 Develop social and economic SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) that link to the indicators and relevant programmes of work.						
2	Data collection and reporting	High, short to medium term (2)					
	2.1 Development of a programme of work to review existing repositories of social and economic data of IOTC member countries.						
	2.2 Undertake a gap analysis to identify the data gaps, based on the results from topic 1 (identification of relevant indicators required for IOTC), and topic 2.1 (review of existing data).						
	2.3 Identify major challenges in data collection and estimation or evaluation methodologies that are causing the data gaps; and provide practicable solutions to ensure good data collection into the future.						

2.4 Develop and distribute reporting templates for social and economic data that inform the relevant indicators identified in topic 1.					
3	External influences and impacts to social and economic impacts	<p>3.1 Conduct (via invited academic experts) a systematic literature review of the potential climate change impacts on the social and economic aspects of tuna fisheries in the IOTC area of competence, including for example, the direct effects of positive dipole years on tuna fishing.</p> <p>3.2 Review, research, and record the potential (or known, where appropriate) economic and social impact of CMM measures on social and economic indicators.</p>	Medium , longer term (3)		