
OUTCOMES OF THE 27th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 FEBRUARY 2026

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 3rd Meeting of the Working Party on Social-Economics (WPSE03) of the recommendations arising from the 28th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee (SC) held from 1-5 December 2025, specifically relating to the work of the WPSE.

BACKGROUND

At the 28th Session of the SC, the SC noted and considered the recommendations made by the WPSE in 2025 that included requests to develop and distribute social-economic indicators, to evaluate their relevance, applicability, and data needs, as well as to carry out targeted research of social-economic aspects of IOTC fisheries.

DISCUSSION

The following extracts from the SC28 Report (2025) are provided here for the consideration and action of the WPSE03:

Report of the 2nd Session of the Working Party on Socio-Economics (WPSE02)

*(Para 43) The SC **NOTED** the report of the 2nd Session of the Working Party on Socio-Economics ([IOTC-2025-WPSE02-R](#)), including the consolidated list of recommendations provided as an appendix to the report. The meeting was held online and attended by 50 participants (cf. 69 in 2024).*

*(Para 44) The SC **THANKED** the chair for the comprehensive and clear presentation summarising the main outcomes of the WPSE meeting.*

*(Para 45) The SC **NOTED** that the consultant provided the WPSE with useful and relevant information on socio-economic data pertinent to tuna fisheries, including a proposed set of socio-economic indicators for monitoring these fisheries, several of which were identified through the scoping study conducted for the Commission in 2019 ([IOTC-2024-WPSE01-INF03](#)).*

*(Para 46) The SC **NOTED** the WPSE Chair's summary of socio-economic information available from FAO, including production, employment, fleet, trade and market intelligence, while recognising that many datasets are available only at regional or global scales.*

*(Para 47) The SC **NOTED** the persistent gaps in socio-economic data, largely due to incomplete or under-reported national statistics, especially for employment in support industries and fisheries-related services.*

*(Para 48) The SC **NOTED** the wide variation in socio-economic indicators collected by coastal States, with many reported only at aggregated primary-sector levels and limited fisheries-specific or species-specific information, although some countries report employment by gender and income level.*

*(Para 49) The SC **NOTED** the outcomes from paper [IOTC-2025-WPSE02-06](#) presented at the WPSE on the economics of tuna gillnet fisheries in Pakistan which indicated that these fisheries are profitable, with incomes for crew and captains higher than in other fisheries, but that they incur initial important investments and have high fuel and operating costs. The WPSE further **NOTED** that the need to enhance the collection of fisheries data in Pakistan to better understand the dynamics of the fisheries sector.*

*(Para 50) The SC **NOTED** that the data used in this study were provided by WWF-Pakistan, and that they may not reflect accurately the economic status of the tuna gillnet fisheries of Pakistan. The SC further **NOTED** that some major improvements have been recently made with fisheries data collection and management in Pakistan, including the use of digital solutions, and that some economic data are now available and could be provided to support the work of the WPSE.*

*(Para 51) The SC **NOTED** the statement by the invited expert that firstly, supplementary analyses (not presented to the SC) were conducted to assess the impacts of a wire-leader ban on the large-scale longline fisheries*

from Taiwan, China, and secondly that the analyses confirmed that the expected strong negative repercussions on the fishery, initially estimated at more than \$40 million USD in total losses, as well as major impacts on Donggang processing families and tourism workers.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPSE:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2026–WGSE03–04 which outlined the main outcomes of the 28th Session of the Scientific Committee, specifically related to the work of the WPSE.
- 2) **CONSIDER** how best to progress these issues at the present meeting.