
RESOLUTION 18/09 ON A SCOPING STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA AND INDICATORS OF IOTC FISHERIES

Keywords: Socio-Economics, scoping study.

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

CONSIDERING the objective of the Commission provided for in Article V to promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks;

FURTHER CONSIDERING the responsibility of the Commission provided for in Article V(2)(d) to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement bearing in mind, in particular, the interest of developing coastal states;

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 facilitate the process of recruitment of the consultant or consulting company for delivery of the scoping study as specified in Annex I. The Commission requested the Secretariat to seek sources of extra-budgetary funds to support the proposed work.

4. The CPCs shall cooperate with the consultant for the purpose of this study, using their best endeavors and in line with their respective national legislation.

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

Objectives

1. To describe the economic and social aspects of the fisheries, bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal States, and identify the availability of data and socio-economic indicators that would describe the respective CPCs economic and social aspects of fisheries, including but not limited to: socio-economic contribution to the fisheries, economic dependence on fishery resources; income from exports; employment conditions and interactions between fleet segments; impact of fishery resource rents, including fisheries agreements with third parties to the local economies in terms of income, investments and jobs.
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, where feasible under domestic law;
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, where feasible, a discussion on the data themselves, data quality, time periods and coverage rates;
5. To make recommendations on indicators taking into consideration the available data. To make recommendations on data requirements and harmonisation; and
6. To make recommendations on data management, reporting and associated costs to IOTC.
7. The consultant shall consider existing initiatives focusing on the socio-economic importance of fisheries, including, where applicable, the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) pilot project on socio-economic aspect of fisheries, to avoid any duplication

Outputs

8. A draft of the Consultant's report will be provided 120 days in advance of the 23rd Session of the IOTC (S23) in 2019.
9. 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.
10. 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).
11. 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.