
RESOLUTION 23/10

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING PARTY ON SOCIO-ECONOMICS

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

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 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;

FURTHER RECALLING that the precautionary approach requires States to be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate and that the precautionary approach prescribes that the absence of scientific information 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, 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 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 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

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.

Composition:

The WPSE would be technical and scientific in nature and should be composed of stakeholders, experts and practitioners, in particular the following:

- a. social scientists;
- b. economists;
- c. fisheries officers;
- d. invited experts.

The participation of the Chair of the Scientific Committee (or designee) in the WPSE shall be mandatory.

Mandate:

The WPSE shall;

- a. Establish the work plan for the WPSE.
- b. Identify, review, and recommend appropriate, robust metrics and indicators to assess the social and economic dynamics of fisheries.
- c. Identify and recommend the reporting criteria and modalities of submitting the information to the IOTC Secretariat or sourcing the information from multilateral agreements and organisations, 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 of social and economic data as identified in subparagraph a.
 - ii. analysis of fisheries value chains to assess the social and economic state and dynamics of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.
 - iii. analysis of the likely impact of CMMs on these factors.
- e. Provide guidance on data and indicator definitions to ensure a consistent approach to data and indicators across CPCs.
- f. Work closely with the Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics to collect and compile information about past and present social and economic indicators including but not limited to social and economic contribution of fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence, respective economic dependence on fish stocks, the social and economic importance of the fishery, contribution to national food security needs, domestic consumption, income from exports, fisheries subsidies and employment.
- g. Develop the assessment framework to analyse the social and economic impacts arising from the implementation of CMMs, allocation of quotas and catch limits, and recommendations of the IOTC Scientific Committee.
- h. Support and coordinate capacity development and training initiatives in the areas falling within its mandate.
- i. 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 Meeting Participation Fund 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.

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