



SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX IN PUNTARENAS:

a vision of the fishing sector

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Paseo de los Turistas, Puntarenas (© MarViva Foundation)

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Fishing is one of the sources of employment in the province (© MarViva Foundation)

Presentation

MarViva Foundation, in partnership with the Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development of the INCAE Business School (CLACDS-INCAE, for its acronym in Spanish), implemented between October 2018 and June 2021 the project “A more prosperous and safer Puntarenas through institutional strengthening”. One of the objectives of the project was to generate socio-economic data for the central canton of Puntarenas, to support government authorities in the generation of public policy based on evidence, to promote the effective improvement of the quality of life of the population.

In this context, CLACDS-INCAE measured the Social Progress Index (SPI) in the project’s implementation are: the districts of Puntarenas, Chacarita, El Roble and Barranca, in the central canton of Puntarenas. This measurement generated a socio-economic baseline to describe the specific characteristics of the fishing sector and the population in the area that are not linked to this activity. Based on this information, it will be possible to identify opportunities for social progress and generate specific recommendations to promote the inclusion of the fishing sector in new economic dynamics.

This executive summary presents the main findings of this study in Puntarenas, which is also the first to be carried out in the country at a district scale.

The Index of **SOCIAL PROGRESS**

The SPI is a measurement that integrates social and environmental indicators, complementary to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the economic component of the development (Figure 1). Its function is to make it easier for societies to measure the results of implemented actions and policies aimed at improving people's lives, with a view to promoting inclusive growth.

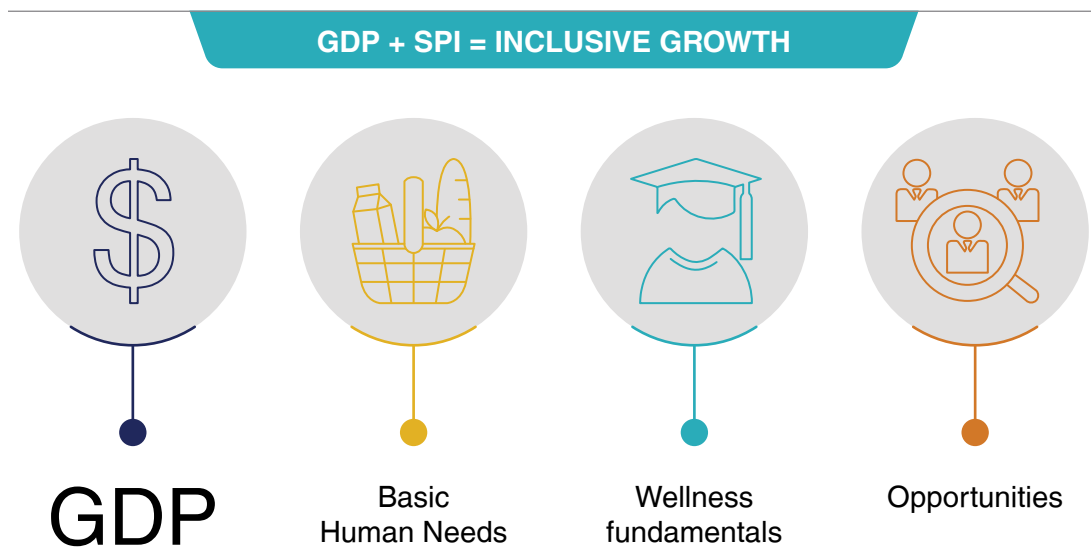
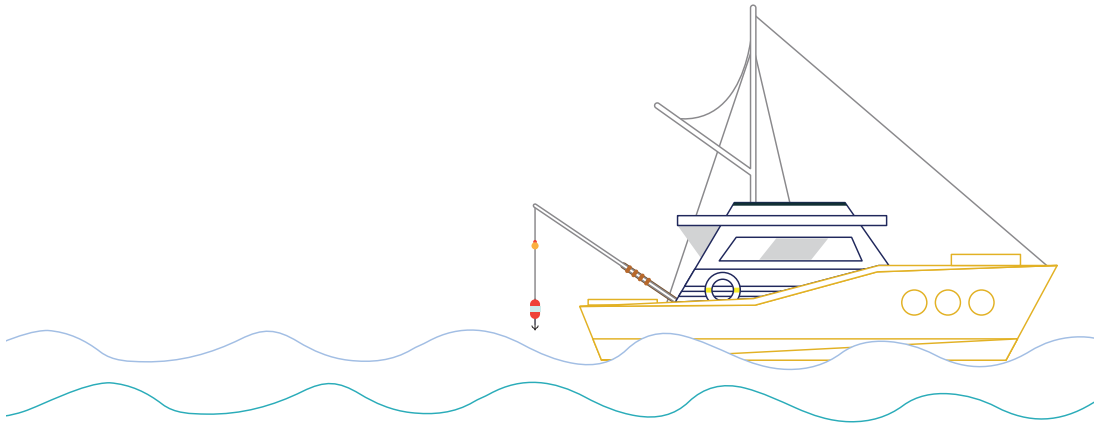


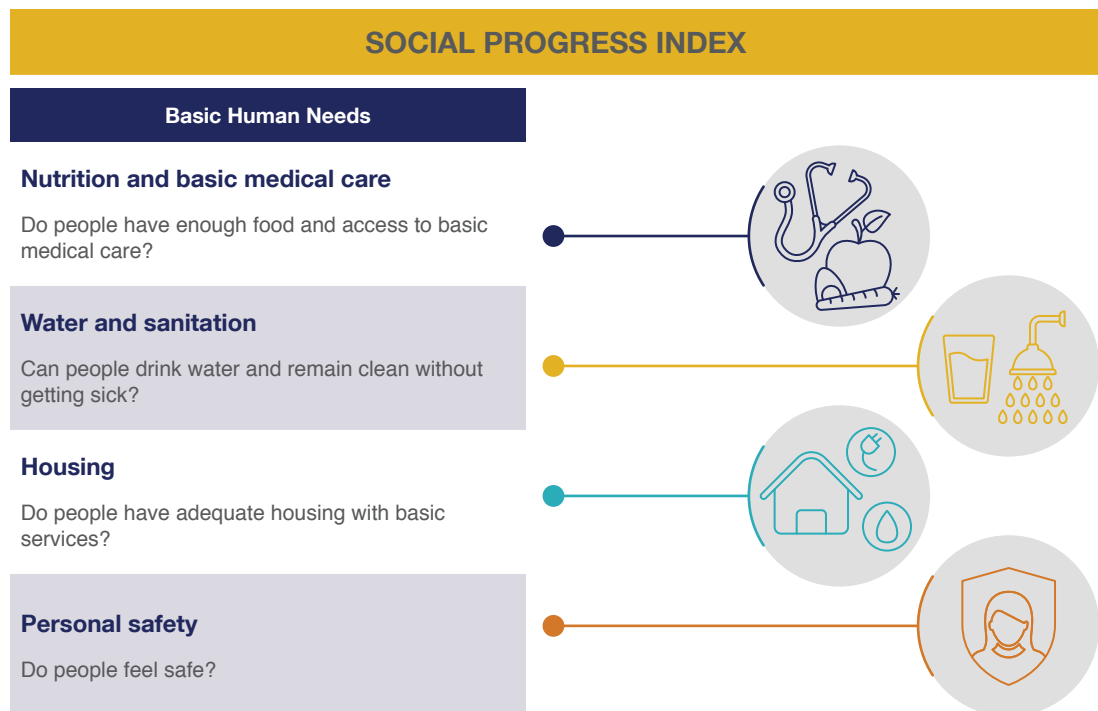
FIGURE 1 SPI as a complement to economic variables (Source: Social Progress Imperative, 2020)

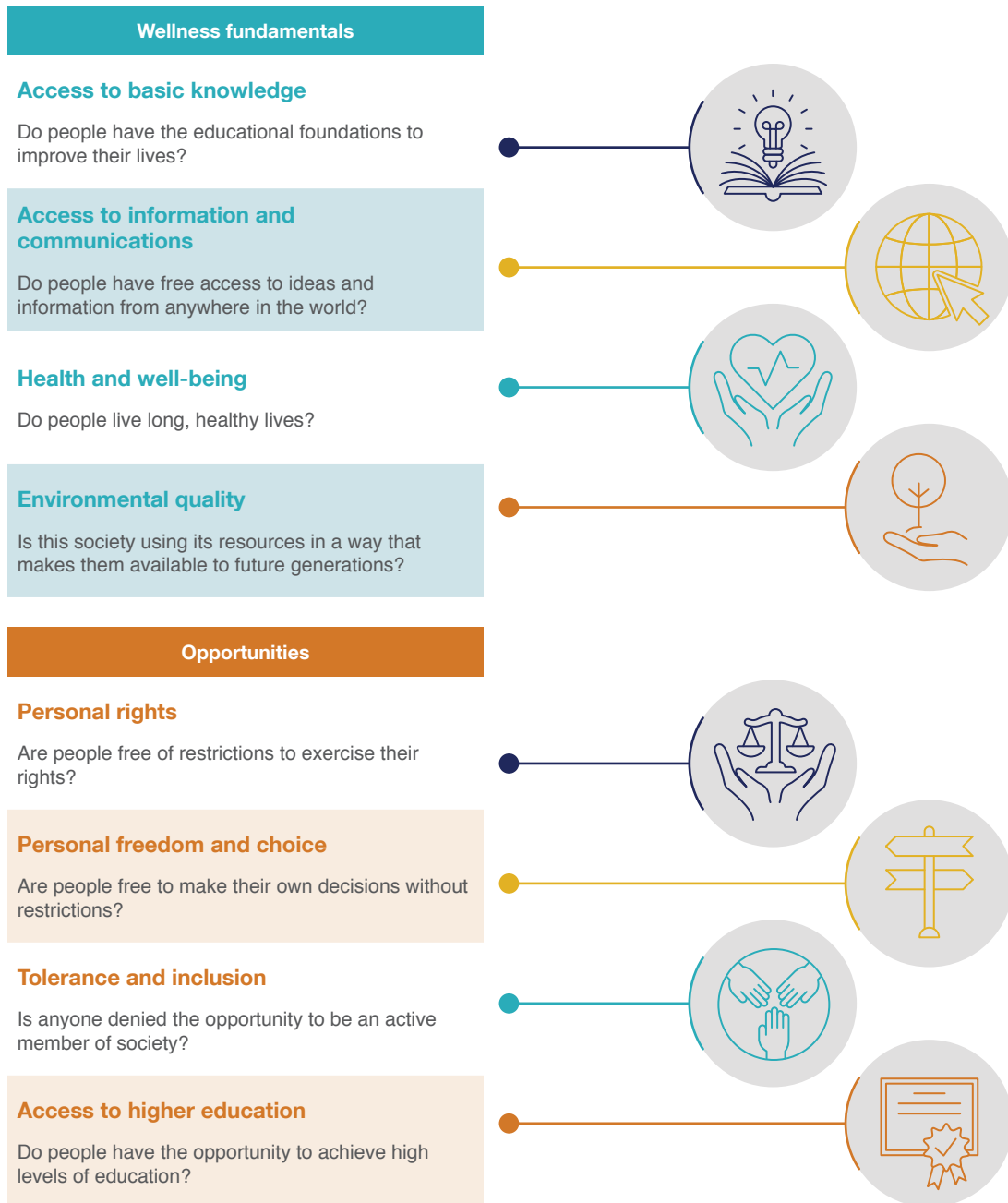




The SPI measurement is structured around three thematic dimensions: i) basic human needs; ii) wellness fundamentals and iii) opportunities. These three dimensions are divided into twelve components (Table 1), distributed in each dimension to facilitate obtaining a detailed and multifaceted view of well-being.

TABLE 1 Social Progress Index model: thematic dimensions and components to be measured (Source: Social Progress Imperative, 2020)





The SPI is measured on a scale of zero to 100 points. The levels of social progress associated with these scores are distributed as follows: very high level (between 100 and 85 points), high level (between 84 and 75 points), medium high level (between 74 and 65 points), medium level low (between 64 and 55 points), low level (between 54 and 45 points) and very low level (between 44 and zero points).

SPI application in the canton

PUNTARENAS - CENTRAL

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During the months of September and October 2019, the CLACDS-INCAE team measured the social progress of four districts in the canton of Puntarenas: Chacarita, El Roble, Barranca and Puntarenas (Figure 2), through the application of a door-to-door survey in 1,000 homes in the area. These surveys were distributed proportionally according to the number of inhabitants per district, based on data provided by the National Institute of Statistic and Census (INEC).

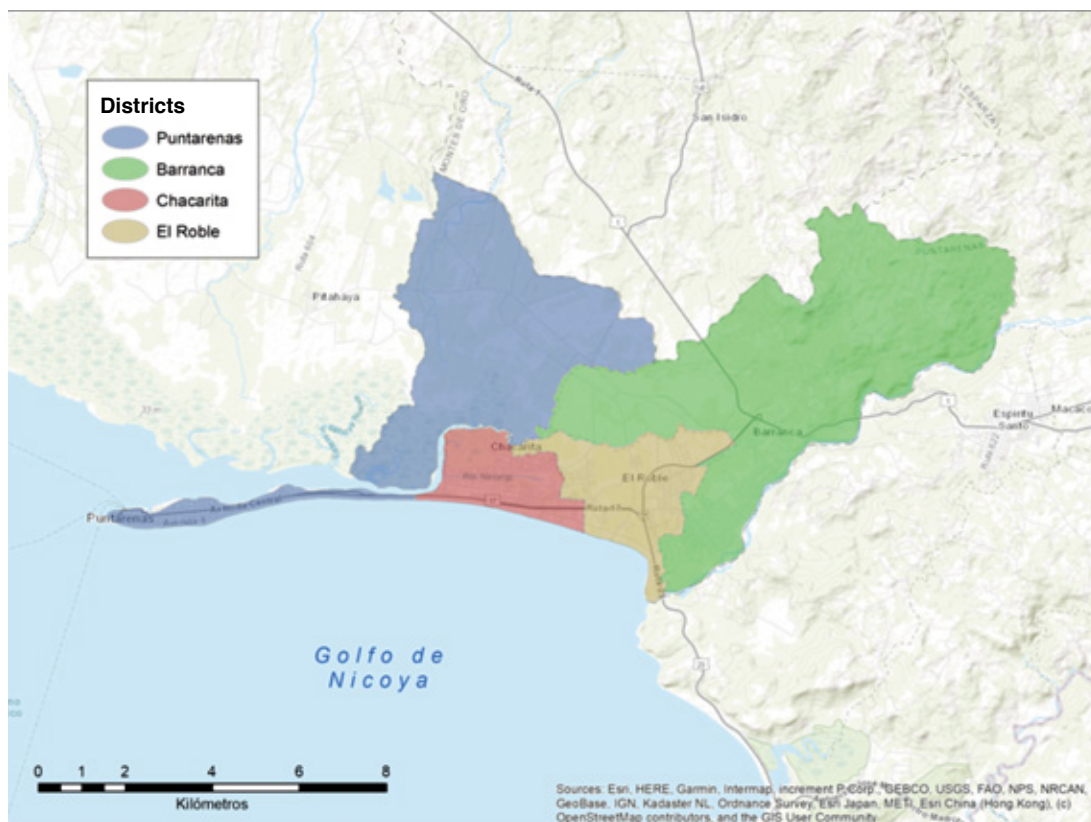


FIGURE 2 Districts of the canton of Puntarenas where the SPI survey was conducted (Source: MarViva Foundation)

To achieve the measurement, the survey incorporates additional questions applicable particularly to the surveyed population with links to the fishing activity. After the application of the survey, 180 interviewees were identified linked to this productive activity, representing 18% of the total sample.

Main FINDINGS

There is an evident difference between the social progress scores obtained by the population linked to the fishing sector, compared to the scores obtained for the surveyed population unrelated to fishing (Figure 3). In average, the fishing population scored 64.34 points, which is equivalent to a medium-low level of social progress. However, interviewees who were neither fishermen nor workers in the sector, obtained a score of 67.81 points, which is equivalent to a medium-high level of social progress.

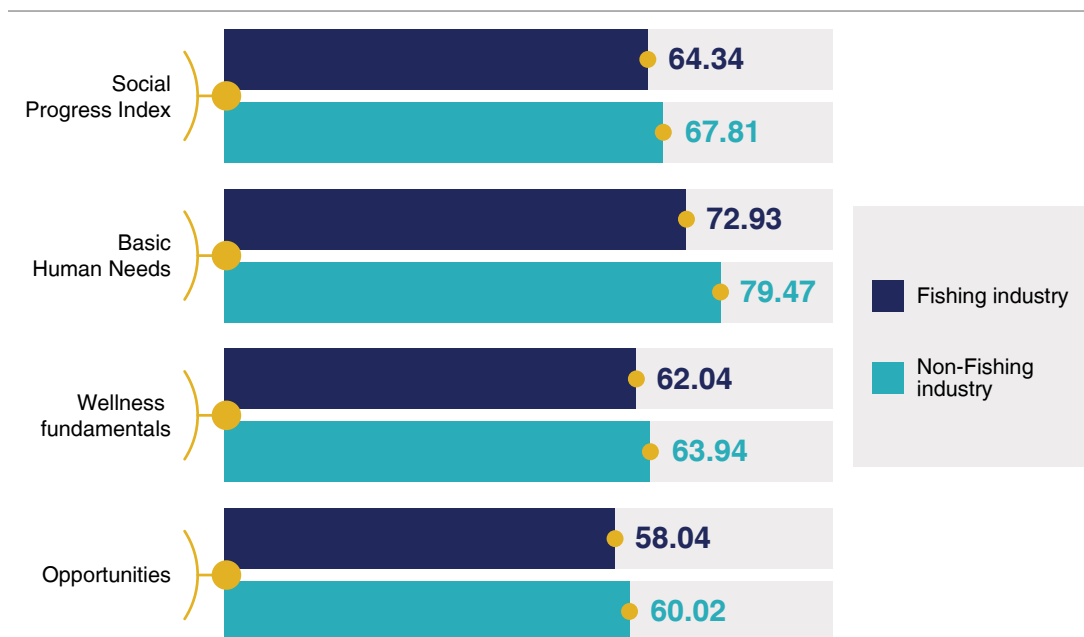


FIGURE 3 Comparison of SPI results in general and by dimension among populations linked and not linked to the fishing sector (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

The following tables (Table 2, 3 and 4) summarize the scores obtained in relation to the twelve components of the three dimensions of the SPI, both for the fishing sector and for the population not linked to fishing.



TABLE 2 Scores obtained in the components of dimension 1: Basic human needs (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Component	Fishing sector score	Non-Fishing sector score
Nutrition and basic medical care	80.53 points (high)	82.15 points (high)
Water and sanitation	88.18 points (very high)	93.80 points (very high)
Housing	86.08 points (very high)	87.13 points (very high)
Personal safety	36.93 points (very low)	54.79 points (low)

TABLE 3 Scores obtained in the components of dimension 2: Basic Well-being (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Component	Fishing sector score	Non-Fishing sector score
Access to basic knowledge	71.21 points (medium high)	75.66 points (high)
Access to information and communications	64.45 points (medium)	67.10 points (medium high)
Health and well-being	67.49 points (medium-high)	68.39 points (medium-high)
Environmental quality	45.01 points (low)	44.61 points (very low)

TABLE 4 Scores obtained in the components of dimension 3: Opportunities (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Component	Fishing sector score	Non-Fishing sector score
Personal rights	62.11 points (medium-low)	59.65 points (medium-low)
Personal freedom and choice	50.33 points (low)	51.97 points (low)
Tolerance and inclusion	62.83 points (medium low)	66.01 points (medium high)
Access to higher education	56.88 points (medium low)	62.47 points (medium low)

1. Family income, subsidies and social security

When adding the salaries and other income of the fishing population surveyed, it shows that 48.85% receive less than 200,000 Costa Rican colones (CRC) per month, while 36.78% receive between CRC 200,000 and CRC 400,000 per month. Meanwhile, in the surveyed population not linked to fishing, the income received by 35.47% is in the range between CRC 200,000 and CRC 400,000 per month, and for 47.82% it is less than CRC 200,000 per month (Figure 4).

On average, the population not related to the fishing sector has a higher monthly income than the fishing population

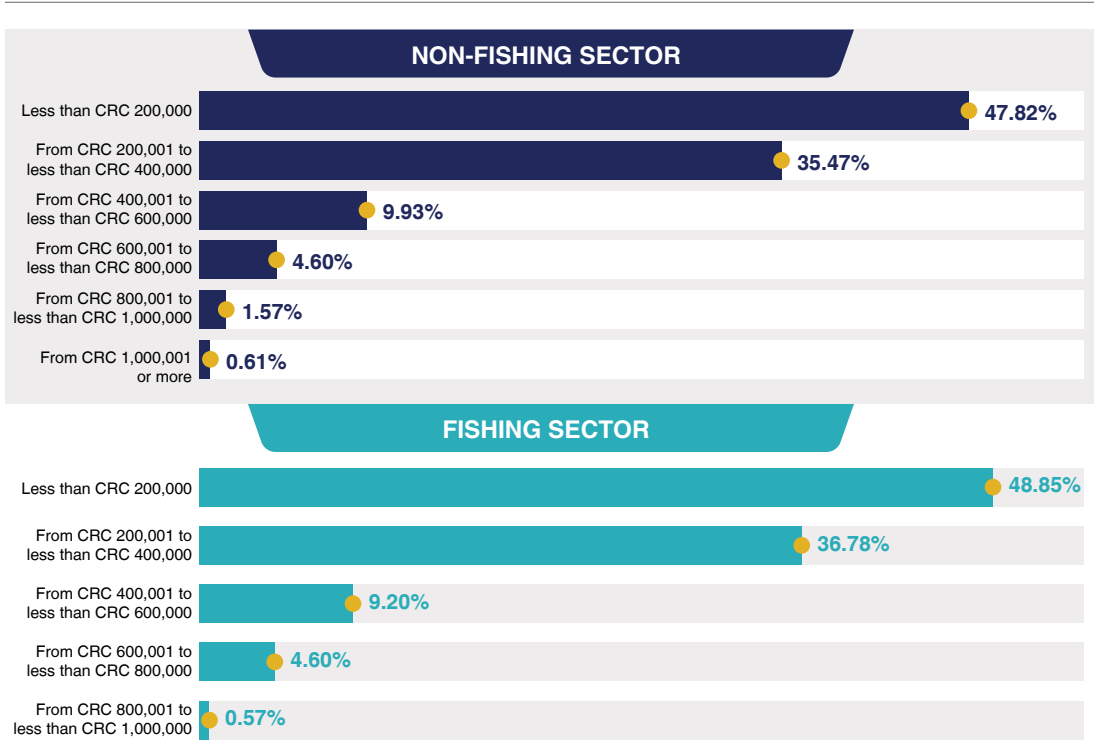


FIGURE 4 What is approximately the amount available per month when adding your income and that of family members who live with you? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

In terms of state subsidies (Figure 5), 18.97% of the fishing population stated that they received some help or assistance from the Join Social Aid Institute (IMAS, for its acronym in Spanish), while in the non-fishing population it was 13.20% of those interviewed.

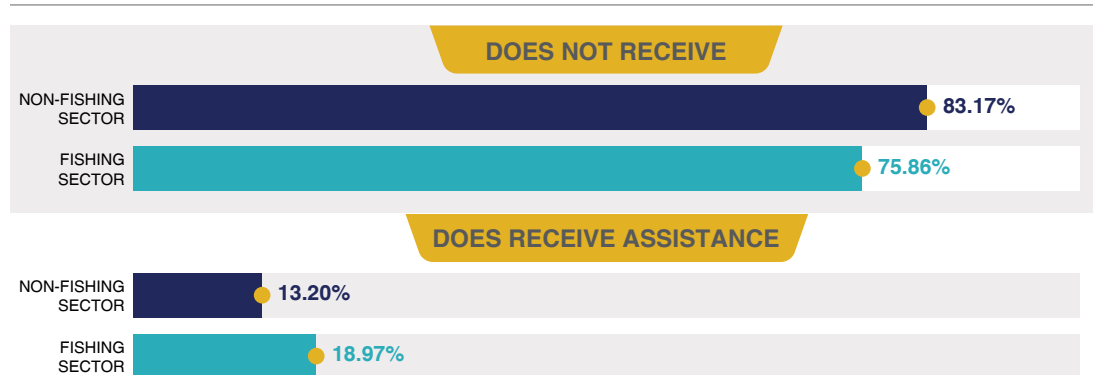


FIGURE 5 Do you or your family receive any help or assistance from IMAS? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Regarding whether there was any type of social security (Figure 6), 79.44% of the fishing population responded that they did have insurance. In this case, 15.88% pay their own social security contribution, 18.82% do so through their employer, while 65.29% are insured by other means (the majority through a family member). On the other hand, 76.30% of the population not related to the sector mentioned having health insurance as part of their occupation.



FIGURE 6 Do you have access to social security (health insurance) as part of your work benefits? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

2. Labor activities and organization of the sector

The main work activities or occupations mentioned by the population related to the fishing sector were (Figure 7): fisher (38.33%), artisanal fisher (15%), shrimp peeling (19.44%) and seafaring (7.78%). Also, counted within the category others (18.89%) all those responses related to sector value chain activities, such as vessel management, warehouseman, seller, etc.

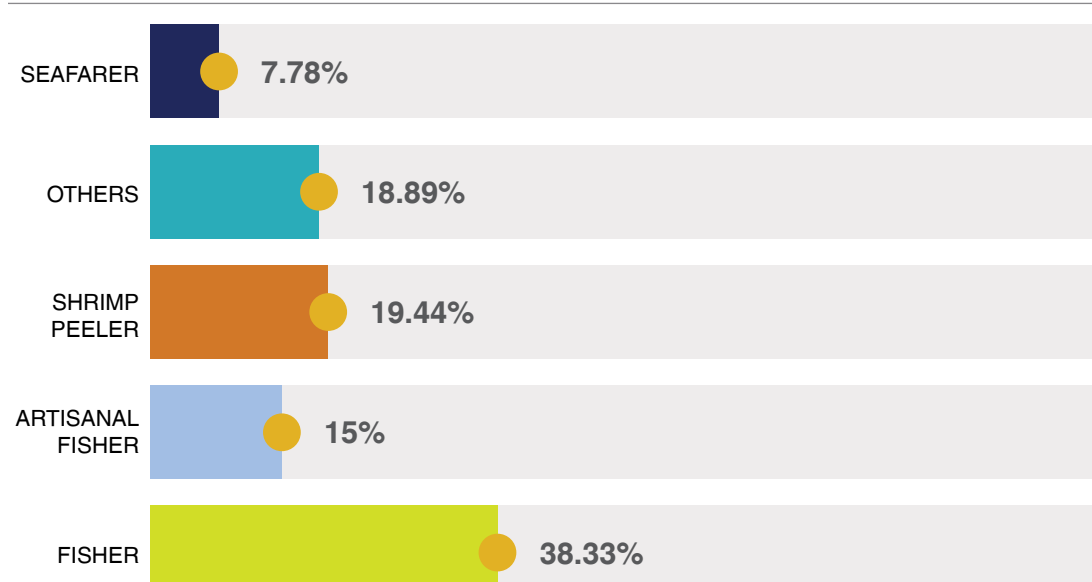


FIGURE 7 Main activities of the population related to the fishing sector (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)



Respondents who identified as fishers or seafarers were also asked if they owned the boat they used to carry out their activity (Figure 8). Of them, only 13.91% responded affirmatively. When asked about the type of boat in which they carried out their activities, 26.03% responded panga, 13.68% boat, 10.95% small boat and 8.9% said large boat.

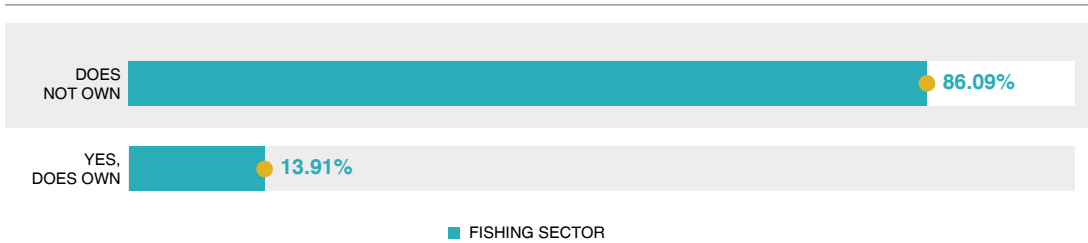


FIGURE 8 Did you or do you own any type of vessel? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Additionally, the fishing population was asked if they have or have had a complementary job to said activity, in which case 84.83% answered no.

Regarding the organization of the sector, only 23.84% of the fishing sector population participating in this survey claimed to belong or have belonged to some fishing association (Figure 9).

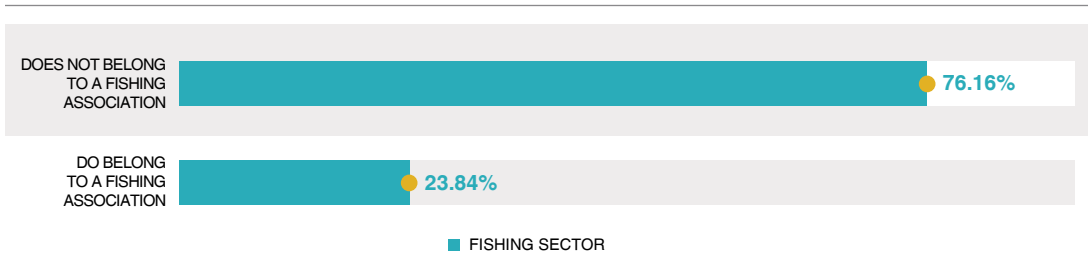


FIGURE 9 Did you or do you belong to a fishing association? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

3. Job aspirations and productive skills

The survey team asked those interviewed linked to the fishing sector if they would like to continue linked to said activity (Figure 10). 51.45% of them answered yes, while 48.55% answered no.

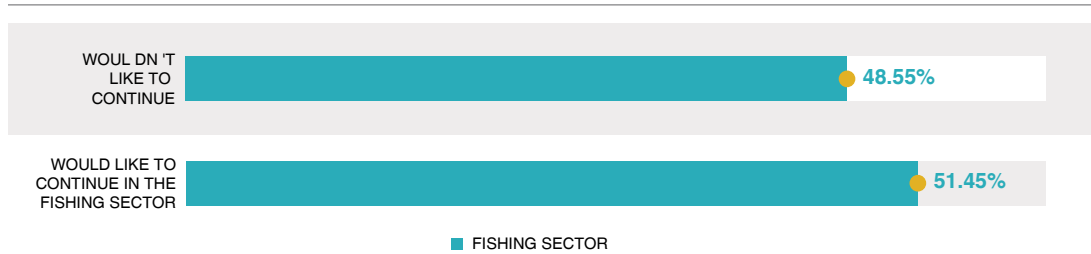


FIGURE 10 Would you like to remain in the fishing sector? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Additionally, if they had children, they were asked if they would like them to also engage in fishing activities (Figure 11). In this case, 84.44% said no. This question was also applied to the population not linked to fishing, in which case the response was 94.64% negative.



FIGURE 11 If you have children, would you like your children to engage in fishing activities? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Likewise, the population related to fishing was asked if they had the possibility of dedicating themselves to any other activity, job or occupation, which activity would they choose. Only 21.11% of the respondents stated that they would choose to remain in the fishing sector. The rest of the answers were very different and included: commercial activities, gastronomy, tour guide, administration, sewing, own business, child care, nursing, education, among others.

Regarding the skills of the fishing population, the results show that their set of skills is typical of a profile that performs manual and repetitive activities.

Firstly, 70% of the fishing population reports that they do not need to read or write to carry out their activities, while in the non-fishing population this percentage is 73.37% (Figure 12).

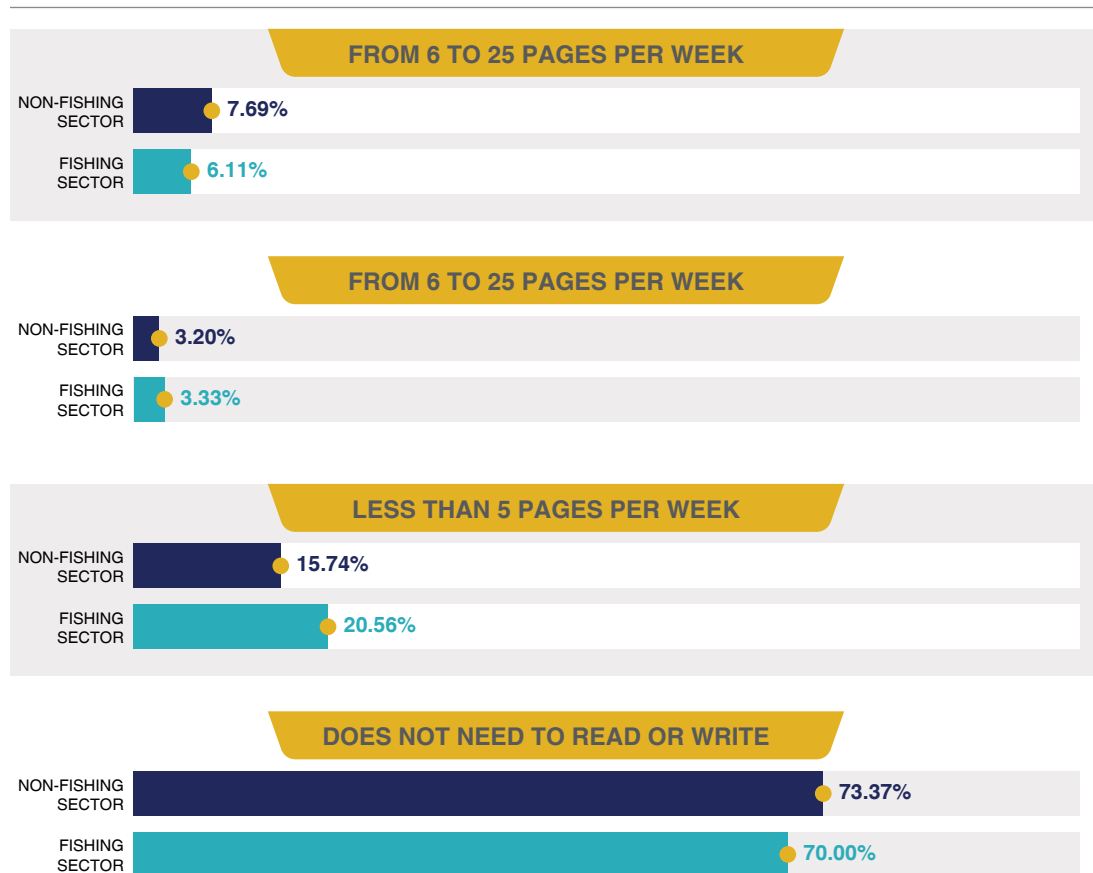


FIGURE 12 In your work, how much reading or writing do you need to do to fulfill your activities? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Regarding arithmetic skills (Figure 13), 55.56% of the fishing sector stated that, during their work, they need to measure, weigh, divide, calculate distances, prices and costs. On the other hand, 44.44% of the fishing population indicates that they do not require numerical skills to perform their occupation.

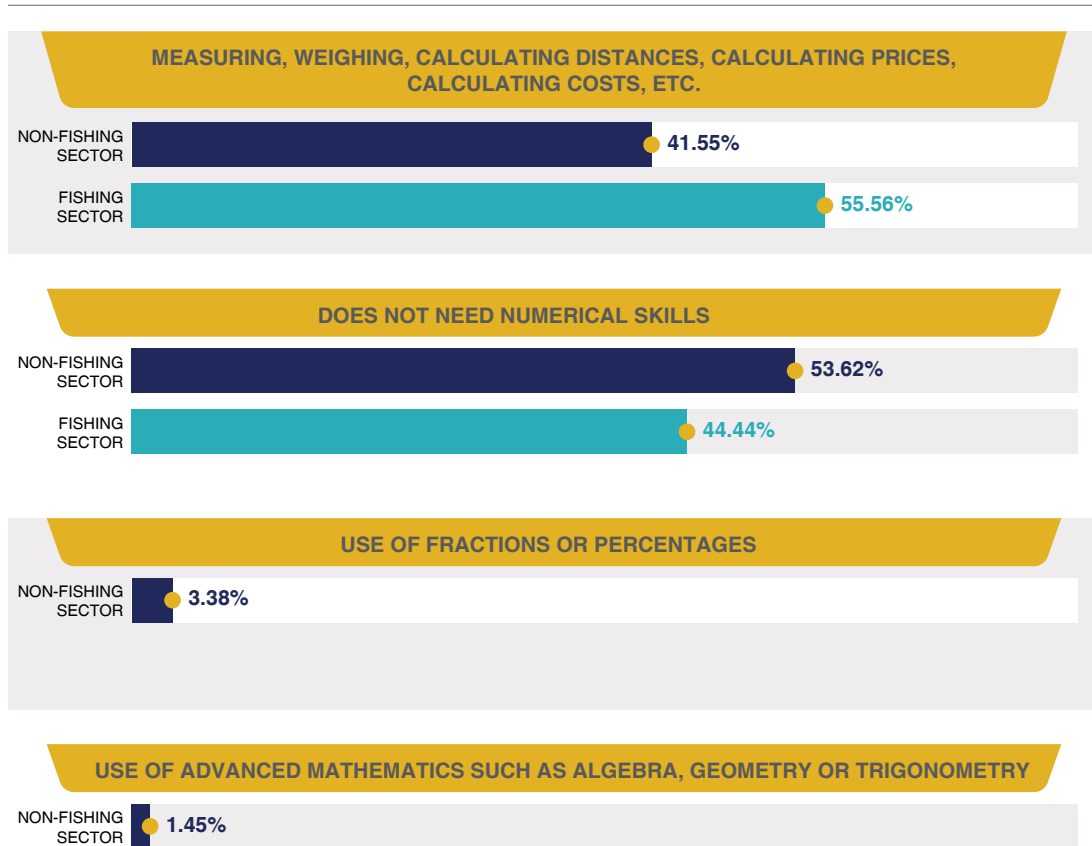


FIGURE 13 In your work, what kind of number skills (math) do you apply? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Regarding the use of computer equipment in their activities (Figure 14), 85% of the respondents belonging to the fishing sector answered that they do not require the use of this type of equipment; while in the population not linked to fishing, the response was 78.91%.

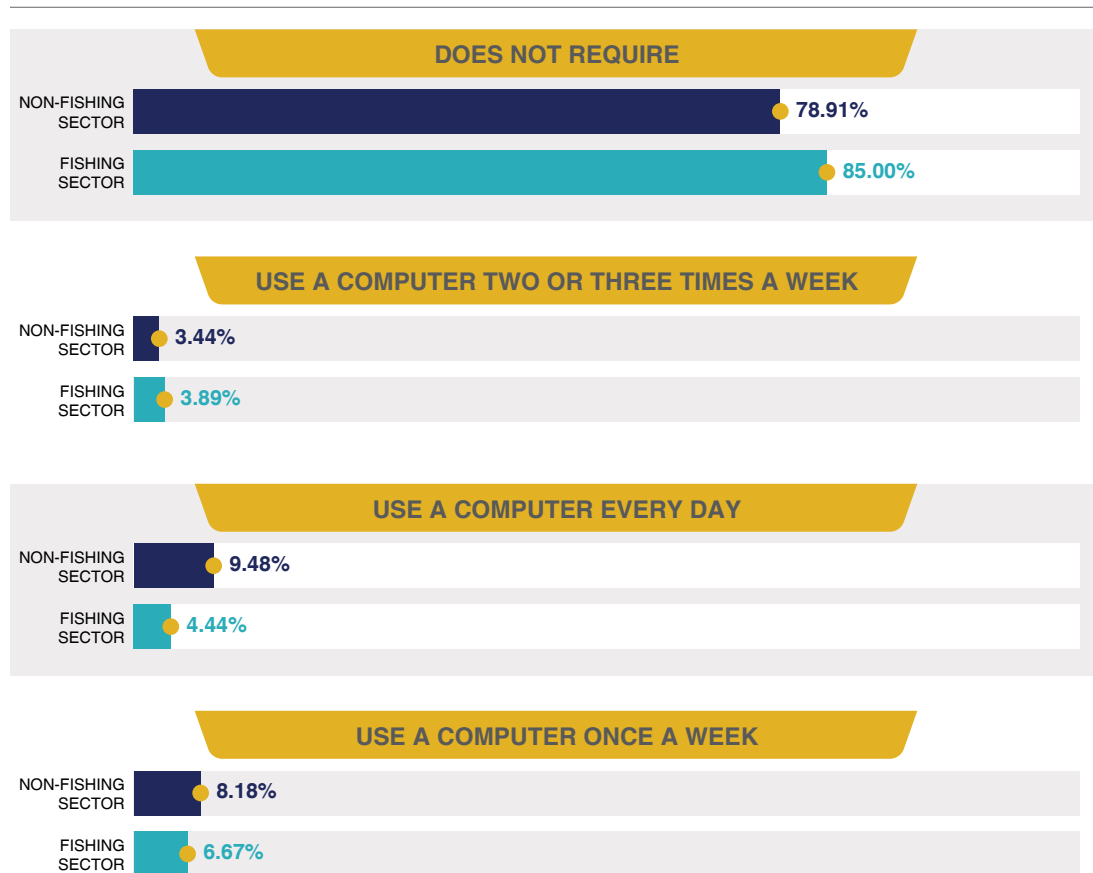


FIGURE 14 DO you need to use a computer at work? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

In relation to soft and interpersonal skills (Figure 15), they were asked if they need to be in contact with clients or the general public while performing their work. In the case of the fishing population, 47.22% answered that they have no contact with clients. On the other hand, 30.56% indicated that they do maintain a lot of contact.

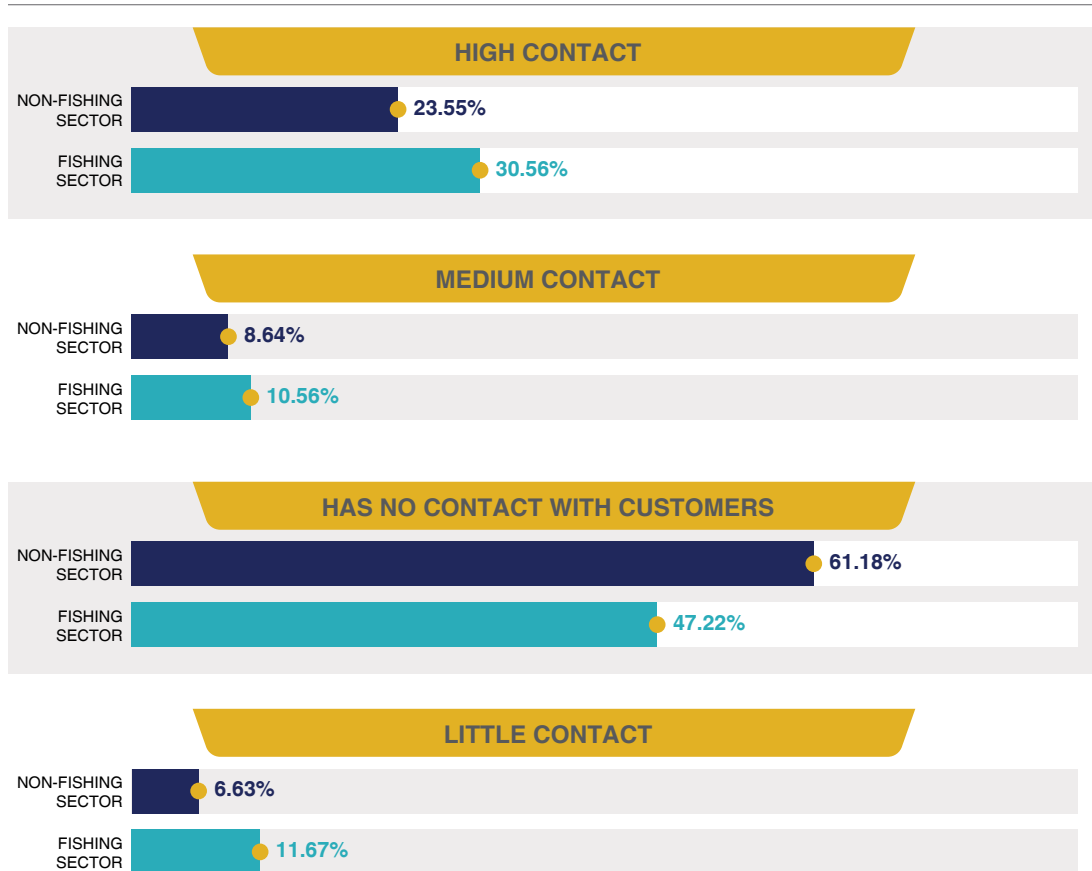


FIGURE 15 In your work, do you need to be in contact with clients, suppliers, students or the general public? (Source: SPI survey Puntarenas 2019)

Main conclusions¹

- The cantonal socioeconomic crisis responds to very different factors. Therefore, currently, the priority is to address the following challenges: poverty reduction, crime reduction and generation of qualified employment.
- Institutions present in the area reaffirm that social development must be accompanied by sustainable management of marine resources. Therefore, the social progress roadmap for Puntarenas must start from the premise of the blue economy as a form of development. Through the conservation of marine natural capital, it is possible to promote the development of jobs in areas such as tourism, complemented by the implementation of productive alternatives such as mariculture, agriculture, logistics operations and manufacturing.
- Reorienting the efforts of the fishing sector is vital. Giving priority to the most selective fishing techniques and to fisheries that are not overexploited but offer high value can transform the sector towards more competitive markets, in which the added value derived from fair trade principles will generate better living conditions in the area.
- The aspirations of the fishing sector to join other productive areas, evidenced in the publication Social Progress Index in Puntarenas: a vision of the fishing sector, are known by the institutions, they are even recognized as necessary to generate social mobility. Therefore, in addition to significant investments in infrastructure and education, it is important to diversify job opportunities, taking into account the professional profile and skills already available in the population that requires employment.

¹ Derived from the process of socialization and validation of findings carried out in September 2020 with government institutions, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, including representatives of the fishing sector.



Literature cited

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Fishing communities depend on the extraction of marine-coastal resources for their livelihood.
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