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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-55777**

**Title: Just Transition Pathways for Small-Scale Fisheries: A Carbon Footprint and Socio-Economic Assessment in Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte**

**Recommendation:**

Accept as it is .....  
Accept after minor revision.....  
Accept after major revision .....  
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			x	
Techn. Quality		x		
Clarity		x		
Significance			x	

**Reviewer Name: Dr. Hari Prashad Joshi**

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

This manuscript presents a well-conceived and timely study that effectively integrates socio-economic and carbon footprint analyses within the framework of a just transition for small-scale fisheries. The research is methodologically sound, employing appropriate tools for data collection and analysis, and its findings are clearly presented with supporting tables and figures. The discussion is robust, successfully linking empirical results to established theoretical frameworks (e.g., social well-being, gendered livelihoods) and the broader literature on fisheries sustainability.

The study makes a valuable contribution by highlighting the interconnected structural constraints—such as prevalent vessel renting, high rates of non-registration, and educational disparities—that underpin both socio-economic vulnerability and variations in carbon efficiency. The conclusion that just transition pathways must address these foundational inequalities is well-supported.

Minor revisions are required to enhance clarity and rigor:

Methodological Detail: Elaborate on the process for collecting and verifying self-reported fuel consumption data to strengthen the emissions analysis.

Discussion Depth: Expand the discussion to more explicitly connect the identified demographic and governance barriers (e.g., vessel registration) to the proposed just transition policy recommendations.

References: Correct duplicate entries and inconsistencies in the reference list (e.g., Allison & Ellis, 2001, appears twice).