



WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941

Federated States of Micronesia

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Scientific Committee Project Themes with High Priority

Terms of Reference to Call for Expressions of Interest

INTRODUCTION

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention) entered into force in June 2004 creating one of the first regional fisheries management organizations to be established since the 1995 adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Agreement. For this purpose, the Convention establishes a Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC). The Commission Secretariat is based at Kolonia, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

The Convention applies to all species of highly migratory fish stocks (defined as all fish stocks of the species listed in Annex I of UNCLOS occurring in the Convention Area and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine) within the Convention Area, except sauries. Conservation and management measures under the Convention are to be applied throughout the range of the stocks, or to specific areas within the Convention Area, as determined by the Commission. The Commission currently has 25 Members, eleven Cooperating Non-Members, and seven Participating Territories. Additional information concerning the Commission, including meeting documents, is available from www.wcpfc.int.

The Commission in December 2012 endorsed an unobligated budget of USD 83,000 for 2013 projects and the 9th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC9) identified three high priority projects as follows:

- 1) Desktop analysis to develop Reference Points for elasmobranchs
- 2) Development of a best practice approach to standardise CPUE indices for use in stock assessments
- 3) Review of Project 60 (Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data) update – desktop analysis for carrying forward Project 60

The Terms of Reference below have been prepared to solicit expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, institutions or firms to undertake each study. The quality proposal(s) for funding will be reviewed and selected by the Research Sub-Committee (RSC), and projects will be contracted late 2013. The process to be used is summarized in Attachment K, Summary Report of the SC9, available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/9th-regular-session-scientific-committee>). Project numbers refer to those in Attachment J of the SC9 Summary Report.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The consultancy(ies) will commence as soon as possible after the selection of the winning bid(s). Bid(s) should include:

- a. a capability statement detailing qualifications and relevant experience for individual team members and/or the agency bidding for the consultancy;
- b. a work plan with milestones, a timetable for delivery of the consultancy outcomes and an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy;
- c. contact details for individuals who can comment on previous work by the bidder that is relevant to this consultancy.

Bids should be no more than 8 single spaced pages. In assessing the merits of bids received, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness will be important considerations. Requests for additional information relating to this consultancy and submissions of EOI should be directed to:

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Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 2356
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by close of business on **Thursday, 31 October 2013**.

PROJECT THEMES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Theme 1. Desktop analysis to develop limit reference points for elasmobranchs

Objective:

To propose the most appropriate limit reference points for elasmobranchs in the WCPO for review at SC10 in August 2014

Scope and tasks:

- Document a comprehensive review of limit reference points commonly used for elasmobranchs, especially for WCPFC key shark species in the CMM 2010-07;
- Assess and document the major benefits and limitations of the limit reference points; and
- Taking into account the limit reference point framework adopted by the WCPFC (refer to Para. 334c in SC7 Summary Report: <http://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/7th-regular-session-scientific-committee>) for target species, recommend a suite of limit reference points for elasmobranchs

Outputs and schedule:

The outputs of the project will be:

- Submission of a draft report to the Secretariat by 31 May 2014 for review by the RSC.
 - RSC comments will be forwarded to the author by 30 June 2014.
- The author will address RSC comments and provide the final report to the Secretariat by 18 July 2014.
- The author will present the final report at SC10 (an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy should include the travel cost required for the contractor's presentation at SC10 in Majuro, Marshall Islands in August 2014)

Project Theme 2. Development of a best practice approach to standardise CPUE indices for use in stock assessments

Objective:

To improve existing CPUE standardization to refine stock indices for WCPFC stock assessments

Scope and tasks:

- Document and review the range of CPUE standardisation techniques and diagnostics used in WCPO assessments;
- Identify "best-practice" models to be used for standardising CPUE for WCPFC stock assessments;
- Develop a set of diagnostic outputs and plots to be included when undertaking CPUE standardisation;
- Develop criteria to assist the Scientific Committee evaluate the suitability of using a CPUE index as an index of abundance in WCPFC stock assessments.

Outputs and schedule:

The outputs of the project will be:

- Submission of a draft report to the Secretariat by 31 May 2014 for review by the RSC.
 - RSC comments will be forwarded to the author by 30 June 2014.

- The author will address RSC comments and provide the final report to the Secretariat by 18 July 2014.
- The author will present the final report at SC10 (an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy should include the travel cost required for the contractor's presentation at SC10 in Majuro, Marshall Islands in August 2014)

Project Theme 3. Collection and evaluation of purse-seine species composition data (WCPFC Scientific Committee Project ID 60)

Objective:

To improve the collection and representative nature of species composition data caught by purse-seine fisheries in the WCPO in order to improve the stock assessments of key target species in the WCPO

Scope and tasks:

- Use unloading data supplemented as appropriate by port sampling to compare with existing spill samples collected under Project 60, including trips by vessels unloading in Japan and the Solomon Islands
- Conduct spill sampling on vessels covered by large-scale port sampling in Papua New Guinea and compare estimates of size and species composition derived from these sources.

Outputs and schedule:

The outputs of the project will be:

- Submission of a draft report to the Secretariat by 31 May 2014 for review by the RSC.
 - RSC comments will be forwarded to the author by 30 June 2014.
- The author will address RSC comments and provide the final report to the Secretariat by 18 July 2014.
- The author will present the final report at SC10 (an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy should include the travel cost required for the contractor's presentation at SC10 in Majuro, Marshall Islands in August 2014)