

## WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2356

Kolonia

Pohnpei 96941

Federated States of Micronesia

[www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)

### INFORMATION PACKAGE

#### **Development of WCPFC Cost Recovery for the Vessel Monitoring System, Regional Observer Programme and the Record of Fishing Vessels**

#### **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 (Agreement).

The objective of the Convention, and hence the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Agreement.

The Commission currently has 25 Members, seven Cooperating Non-Members, three Pacific Overseas Territories from each of France and the US, and Tokelau are included as Participating Territories within the Commission. Additional information concerning the Commission, including copies of recent decisions, is available from [www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)

The Sixth Session of the Commission in December 2009 directed the Secretariat to prepare cost recovery options for discussion at the Sixth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee in early October 2010, with the intent to reduce the financial burden upon Members, and to move towards a 'user pays' principle.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to draft options for cost recovery, specifically for:

1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for consideration at TCC6. The Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) is intricately linked to the VMS, and was also an area of consideration for cost recovery noted in WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.8 dated 31 October 2002, so this programme is also being included in this exercise.

This consultancy, however, shall also address several other revenue opportunities noted in the above report, some of which include:

2. fees for Cooperating Non-Parties (CNMs) attendance at meetings and other contributions to the Commission;
3. fees for Observers at the Commission and its subsidiary meetings;
4. review of the nominal registration fee for non-member carriers and bunkers to determine if this should be a once only or annual fee and the level of the fee.

The Consultancy is expected to look at all the above cost recovery issues, investigate other new ideas, such as fees for hiring of WCPFC facilities, however, the three programmes noted in item 1 above are key areas of focus for this initiative.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Using the cost recovery paragraphs in the Summary Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting as a basis for this exercise, develop cost recovery options, proposals and recommendations for the Commission's services for review at TCC6<sup>1</sup>.

### **1. Vessel Monitoring System**

#### **Introduction**

The Commission VMS uses the Pacific VMS infrastructure managed by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) which also supports a VMS for FFA members in their national waters. The Pacific VMS is an open architecture, integrated service that utilizes FFA-owned IT VMS infrastructure, software and services. It consists of the Sydney, Australia-based co-location services under an FFA contract with Macquarie Telecom Data Centre.

MTUs in use by the Commission VMS include Inmarsat C service, Iridium Network and CLS Argos. The vessel position reported to the Commission VMS through these units varies from hourly to four-hourly intervals. Over 2,750 fishing vessels are being monitored in the high seas of the Convention area. The WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels lists over 6,500 vessels and it is expected that more of these fishing vessels will be reporting to the system in the near future.

### **2. Regional Observer Programme**

#### **Introduction**

The Regional Observer Programme (ROP) commenced in 2009 and is rapidly becoming a key component to scientific data collection as well as compliance monitoring. Closure of two high seas pockets, 100% observer coverage on purse seiners, and a 5% observer coverage of all longline vessels by 2012, results in the need for trained observers from the current 350-400

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<sup>1</sup> It is recognized that the most popular and equitable cost recovery options utilized in fisheries incorporate the principle of user pays.

necessary for the 100% purse seine coverage as required by CMM 2008-01 to an additional 200-250 to carry out the 5% longline coverage required by 2012.

Costs of training, monitoring deployment schedules, safety, briefing, debriefing, observer's final report and data collection, transferring data to the Commission and other partner regional agencies are escalating beyond the current budgets of WCPFC and SPC.

National and sub-regional observer programmes currently recover costs for observer deployment and observer salaries through observer service providers and the industry. Training of Pacific Island members of FFA and SPC observer programmes are generally addressed through the FFA and SPC through donor and member funds. Members outside the membership of FFA and SPC are required to address and fund their own training courses to meet the regional standards.

### **3. Record of Fishing Vessels**

#### **Introduction**

The Record of Fishing Vessels, including the Interim Register for Non-Member Carriers and Bunkers is growing exponentially each year, and is also becoming more complex in its operations. The Record contains significant numbers of vessels from Members that require data entry time and monitoring, but these vessels have no intention of fishing in the Convention Area. This requires additional manpower and time and creates a vastly expanded database of unused information. The intent is to maximize effective use of manpower and data storage to result in more timely responses to operational queries by reducing the numbers of these vessels that will not operate in the WCPFC Convention Area.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSULTANCY**

- a. Identify key considerations for each of the above programmes and ancillary cost recovery issues;
- b. Identify and develop practical cost recovery options, proposals and recommendations showing estimated net returns (or losses) and administrative implementation details in respect of the Secretariat's activities, in accordance with the direction of WCPFC6. Highlight the pros and cons for each option considered.
- c. Provide a report to the Secretariat in accord with the schedule below.

#### **CONSULTANCY ATTRIBUTES:**

##### **Consultant(s) attributes**

The Consultant would need to demonstrate:

- a. A minimum of five years experience in the operations of vessel monitoring systems and registration of fishing vessels, preferably in the international context with an understanding of the need and abilities to harmonize systems, address security issues and handle high volumes of data flow and entry;
- b. A minimum of 8 years in observer operations (experience on operations and structures of Pacific Island Observer programmes being an additional asset);
- c. Experience in other fisheries management measures, linked arrangements with other RFMOs, VMS and Observer programmes and cost recovery programmes and options;
- d. Knowledge of development initiatives and costs for direct, external electronic data entry from various sources with validation processes for both the RFV and Observer programmes;
- e. Experience in developing initial and update training programmes, and costs of delivery of such programmes in a wider regional context.

**PROVISIONAL INDICATIVE SCHEDULE**

| <b>Task</b>                               | <b>Time frame [Tentative]</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Advertise opportunity/Call for EOI        | 7 May 2010                    |
| Close of EOI and selection of consultants | 5 June 2010                   |
| Draft consultancy report                  | 15 July 2010                  |
| CCMs' review of the draft                 | 31 July 2010                  |
| Final consultancy report                  | 15 August 2010                |

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The consultancy will commence as soon as possible after the selection of the winning bid. Suitably qualified individuals, institutions or firms are invited to submit bids to undertake the assignment described above. Bids should include:

- a capability statement detailing qualifications and relevant experience for individual team members and/or the agency bidding for the consultancy;
- a detailed work plan, with milestones and budget for the consultancy; and
- contact details for individuals who can comment on previous work by the bidder that is relevant to this consultancy.

In assessing the merits of all bids, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness will be important considerations in determining the preferred bidder.

Request for additional information relating to this consultancy and submissions of EOI should be directed to:

The Compliance Manager  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
P.O. Box 2356  
Kolonia  
Pohnpei State  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Phone: (691) 320 1992  
Fax: (691) 320 1108  
E-mail: [wcpfc@wcpfc.int](mailto:wcpfc@wcpfc.int)  
Web: [www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)