



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

11-13 September 2007

Tokyo, Japan

---

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE  
COMMISSION'S TRANSITIONAL SCIENCE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS**

---

WCPFC-NC3-06

28 August 2007

**Introduction**

1. 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).
2. 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 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). A small Commission Secretariat is based at Kolonia, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.
3. 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 and two Cooperating Non-Members. The three Pacific Overseas Territories of France and Tokelau are Participating Territories within the Commission. Additional information concerning the Commission, including copies of recent decisions, is available from [www.wcpfc.org](http://www.wcpfc.org)
4. The Inaugural Session of the Commission in December 2004 adopted the Final Report of Working Group II which was concerned with science structure and functions of the Commission. Among other matters, the Report recommended:
  - a provisional science structure for the Commission for a transitional period (expected to last some 3 to 5 years and representing the period between the Convention coming into force and a fully functioning Commission);
  - that, during this period, the structure and functions of the science secretariat be flexible and adaptable; and
  - an independent review of the transitional structure and function be carried out two years after entry into force of the Convention, or earlier if required, to determine the effectiveness of the science structure and to recommend changes as appropriate.
5. These Terms of Reference have been prepared to solicit expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, institutions or firms to undertake the independent review. The EOI should include a timetable for delivery of the consultancy outcomes and an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy.

## **Objective**

6. Using Articles 10 to 15 of the Convention as a basis, undertake, in consultation with interested Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories, a review of the science structure and science functions of the Commission.

## **Steering Committee**

7. The Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 13-24 August 2007 at Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (SC3) recommended the establishment of a Steering Committee which would solicit an EOI, evaluate and select the provider of expert reviewer(s). The composition of the Steering Committee would be composed of five (5) individuals: the Chair of the Commission, Chairs of the WCPFC SC, TCC and NC and the Executive Director of the Commission.

## **Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee**

8. The Steering Committee will incorporate the Terms of Reference (TORs) for scientific data functions and science function included in WCPFC/SC3/2007/GN-WP15 and agreed to at SC3 for the procurement of services on this action. Completion and circulation of the TORs will be done through standard protocols and practices and will be the responsibility of the Secretariat.

9. The Steering Committee, working in conjunction with the Secretariat will review all expressions of interest (EOI), and make a recommendation for the selection of the provider to the Secretariat. The role of the Steering Committee will cease after selection of the provider. General administration of the review process will remain with the Secretariat who will update the chairs of the WCPFC, SC, TCC and NC, as appropriate.

10. The final report will be made available to all CCMs for their review.

## **Scope and Tasks**

The assignment will address, among other matters, the following questions in relation to scientific data functions and science functions of the Commission.

### *1) Scientific data functions*

#### During the transitional period

- Have the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commission's data submission and data management arrangements been adequately defined and specifically, are there any gaps, overlaps, or areas of ambiguity?
- Are the Commission's rules and policies (or standards and specifications where they exist) regarding the security and confidentiality of data, including physical and electronic protection from unauthorised access, adequate?
- Has the Commission's data management performance been satisfactory in its provision of data custodianship services, and specifically have all of the Commission's rules and policies (or standards and specifications where they exist) for data compilation, processing, safekeeping and dissemination, been achieved?
- Are adequate resources available for both data stewardship and data custodianship services of the Commission?

#### Following the transitional period

What would be the advantages and disadvantages of each of the following options for the provision of data custodianship services to the Commission:

- Provision from within the Secretariat;
- Provision by a regional fisheries management organisation outside the Commission;
- Provision by an agency within the Government of a member or participating territory;
- Provision by a private agency.
- Provision by SPC/OFP

## 2) *Science functions*

### Contracted Research

- Has contracted research been carried out to suitable standards?
- Have cost effective outcomes been obtained from the contract research?
- Is there adequate communication between research contractor, science manager and Scientific Committee?
- Are alternative cost effective research options available?
- Is the research contracting process transparent?
- Are the contactors free of conflicts of interests?

### Secretariat and Scientific Committee

- Is the Secretariat adequately resourced to deal with the scientific matters (including data submission and data base contract management) of the Commission?
- Is the Scientific Committee functioning to meet the needs of the Commission? (e.g., is the best available information made available to the Commission, and its subsidiary bodies including the Northern Committee?)
- Following a review of the terms of reference of the specialist working groups, and the review the function of each SWG, determine whether all or any SWGs should continue to exist? If so, is there any other function (SWG) necessary to reply to the requests of the Commission (e.g. economics)?
- Are other cooperative arrangements required?
- Is engagement with Members including Pacific Island States and Participating Territories adequate and balanced?

### **Reviewer attributes**

Reviewer(s) could be individuals or be affiliated with a qualified firm or institution. In order to obtain an independent review, the reviewer(s) can not be staff members of the WCPFC Secretariat or SC scientific provider (SPC) nor be an officer of the SC, TCC, NC or ISC or a Head of Delegation to these subsidiary bodies.

The reviewer(s) will be able to demonstrate:

- broad knowledge of marine science, fisheries biology, oceanography, socio-economics and data management;
- detailed knowledge of oceanic pelagic fisheries, preferably with an emphasis on highly migratory species;
- detailed understanding of the role and functions of regional fisheries management organisations particularly those primarily concerned with highly migratory species;
- expert knowledge in one or more of the following fields: fisheries stock assessment, fisheries statistics, fisheries biology and ecology;

- demonstrable international standing in the field of fisheries research;
- expertise in conflict resolution in group processes; and
- extensive experience in the formulation of scientific advice for fisheries management purposes.

### **Dissemination of an Expression of Interest (EOI)**

The EOI will be distributed to CCM Official Contacts for further re-distribution within their member countries and also advertised internationally.

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 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.

### **Outputs**

1. Reviewer participates in 2008 ISC meeting.
2. Initial feedback and consultation during Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.
3. Initial feedback and consultation during Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee.
4. Draft Report for the Fifth Regular Session of the Commission, December 2008.
5. Final Report to subsidiary bodies throughout 2009 for their review and consideration in advance of:
6. Presentation of the Final Report to the Sixth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2009.

### **Indicative schedule and outputs**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Finalize reviewer attributes, process and ToR	SC3, August 2007
Approve budget at WCPFC4	December 2007
Establish email Steering Committee	January 2008
Advertise opportunity and call for EoI to CCMs and International Community	Feb-March 2008
Close of EoI	Mar 2008
Steering Committee selects provider	Apr 2008
Formal and opportunistic consultations with full range of stakeholders including possible stock assessment preparatory workshop in Noumea (possibly June – July 2008)	April 2008 to August 2009
Reviewer participates in ISC working group(s) and plenary	April-July 2008
Reviewer participates in SC4	August 2008
Reviewer participates in NC4	September 2008
Reviewer participates in WCPFC5 [presents Draft Report]	December 2008
Interim reporting <sup>1</sup>	April2008-August 2009

Final Report	1 April 2009
Report to ISC Plenary	July 2009
Report to SC5	August 2009
Report to NC5	September 2009
Presentation of Final Report with subsidiary body comments to WCPFC6	December 2009

<sup>1</sup> Secretariat will incorporate periodic reporting (quarterly) into the consultancy arrangement, and circulate to all CCMs an update on the status of the review.

### **Budget**

SC3 reaffirmed the importance of the cost efficiency and cost effectiveness of the review process. Between SC3 and WCPFC4, the Secretariat will review the cost structure of the independent review (currently \$USD80,000) and present an estimate to the Finance and Administration Committee.

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 Executive Director  
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@mail.fm](mailto:wcpfc@mail.fm)  
Web: [www.wcpfc.org](http://www.wcpfc.org)