



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

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

WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-15

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Inaugural Session of the Commission (WCPFC1) in December 2004 adopted the Final Report of Working Group II. 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.
2. The First Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC1) at Noumea, New Caledonia, 8-19 August 2005 discussed procedural options for supporting the independent review, its scope (with a focus on science data functions and science functions) and reporting options.
3. The SC1 advised the Second Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC2):
 - a) That the Scientific Committee recommends a new completion date for the review of June 2007;
 - b) That the Scientific Committee has forwarded a discussion paper to the Executive Director outlining elements for a draft TOR for the review;
 - c) That the Scientific Committee participants would provide advice to the Executive Director in writing by 1 April 2006 on the desirable skills and experience of those undertaking the Review;
 - d) That the reviewer(s) would need to attend the 2006 Scientific Committee meeting;
 - e) That the Scientific Committee, facilitated by the Secretariat, would finalize its input to the TOR for the Independent Review inter-sessionally, based on input from the

Secretariat and the contractor with a view to adopting the final TOR at next regular session of the Scientific Committee (SC2 in August 2006).

4. The Second Regular Session of the Commission, 12-16 December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia adopted the advice and recommendations of the Scientific Committee in respect of the proposed review.

5. The Secretariat, which received no advice from SC1 participants in relation to the desired skills and experience for the reviewer(s) as proposed at paragraph 3 (c) (above), drafted the provisional call for Expressions of Interest and draft Terms of Reference on the basis of the discussion paper referred to in paragraph 3(b) above.

6. The draft was considered at the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC2), 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines. An informal small working group met in the margins of the Manila meeting to consider the possible process, terms of reference and schedule for the review. A summary of the key issues discussed by the small working group is appended at Attachment A.

7. The Plenary of SC2 subsequently formally considered the Terms of Reference, selection criteria and selection process for reviewers and possible schedule for the review. The recommendations to the Commission, adopted by SC2, were appended (as Attachment R¹) to the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee for forwarding to the Commission for consideration and endorsement (presented here at Attachment B).

8. At the Third Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC3), 11-15 December 2006 Japan submitted a new proposal on the review process in relation to the composition of a steering committee, nomination of reviewers, costs, etc. In response, WCPFC3, noting the need for a review to be cost effective and independent, requested the SC to re-examine the terms of reference for the review of the Commission's science structure and function and to report on the results of the review to WCPFC4, scheduled for December 2007.

Recommendation

9. As requested by WCPFC3, the Scientific Committee is invited to provide advice and recommendations to WCPFC4 in respect of:

- scope and tasks of the review;
- reviewer attributes;
- the process for the selection of reviewer(s);
- reporting arrangements;
- any other considerations; and
- finalisation of the call for Expressions of Interest including the draft Indicative Schedule of Tasks and Budget described at Appendix B.

¹ Updated to reflect the 1-year possible delay in implementation

OUTCOMES OF SMALL INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER:

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE SCIENCE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION

1. A small working group met to discuss the draft proposal for the Independent Review of the Science Structure and Function of the Commission prepared for SC2 (WCPFC/SC2/2006/GN-WP3).

Scope and tasks

2. There was general support for the scope and tasks presented in the draft provided by the Secretariat – the group recalled these had essentially been drafted during SC1 at Noumea.
3. The small working group recommended the scope be broadened to enable consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including the ISC, NC and the SPC-OFI (perhaps during the period stock assessments are designed and undertaken (tentatively in April)).

Timing

4. The group recommended a schedule as presented in the revised proposal at **[[Attachment A²]]**. In considering this the group took into account:
 - The need for the review to observe two sessions of the SC – one at the start of the assignment as part of the early information gathering exercise and a second SC to present the final report.
 - The need to observe at least one session of the Commission to evaluate the process for the Commission to consider the advice and recommendations of the SC as well as the process for the Commission to request advice and recommendations from the SC.
 - Submit the final report to **[[Comm5 in December 2008]]**.

Reviewer(s) attributes

5. The small working group recommended that these include experience in conflict resolution of group processes.

Report submission

6. The small working group confirmed that the review report would be submitted directly to the Commission.

² Updated to reflect the 1-year possible delay in implementation.

7. The third meeting of the SC (SC4) would provide an opportunity for the SC to prepare a formal response to the Review to accompany the submission of the report to the Commission.

Budget

8. The group considered the provisional budget of US\$50K to support this assignment was inadequate. The small group considered US\$80K was a more realistic budget, given the recommendation of a full consultative process.
9. The group noted that an increase in the budget for this assignment would impact on the provisional allocation to support scientific research in 2007 (US\$250K).

WCPFC/SC2/2006/GN-WP3 Appendix A (revised)

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

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INFORMATION PACKAGE

Independent Review of the Science Structure and Function of the Commission

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 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.

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 saurians. 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

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.

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

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.

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?

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.

Reviewer(s) attributes

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.

Provisional Indicative Schedule

Task	Timeframe [tentative]
Finalize reviewer attributes, process and ToR	SC3, August 2007
Endorsement at WCPFC4	December 2007
Advertise opportunity/call for EoI	1 st quarter 2008
Close of EoI	30 April 2008
Select reviewer(s)	31 May 2008
Formal and opportunistic consultations with full range of stakeholders including possible stock assessment preparatory workshop in Noumea (possibly April 2008)	June 2008 to August 2009
Reviewer participates in ISC	July 2008
Reviewer participates in SC4	August 2008
Reviewer participates in NC4	
Reviewer participates in WCPFC5 [presents Draft Report]	December 2008
Final Report	1 April 2009
ISC Plenary	July 2009
SC5	August 2009
NC5	September 2009
Presentation of Final Report to WCPFC6	December 2009

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 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.

The approximate budget for this assignment is **[[USD80,000]]**. 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
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by close of business on **[30th April 2008]**.

