

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

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**Tender for the Development of a Stock Status and Management Advice Template for
Consistent Reporting of Stock Assessment Outcomes, Uncertainties, and Risk**

Dear All,

Please refer to the attached consultancy tender document for the development of a stock status and management advice template to support consistent reporting of stock assessment outcomes, uncertainties, and risk.

The deadline for applications is **Friday, 23 February 2024**. I would be grateful if you could please circulate as you deem appropriate to interested parties. You may also reference this information under the [Opportunities](#) section on the WCPFC website.

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Consultancy

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (WCPFC-SC)

WCPFC Project 113b: Develop Stock Status and Management Advice Template for Consistent Reporting of Stock Assessment Outcomes, Uncertainties and Risk

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 1995 Fish Stocks 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 26 Members, eight Cooperating Non-Members, and seven Participating Territories. Additional information concerning the Commission, including meeting documents, is available from www.wcpfc.int.

The WCPFC-SC Project 113 ([SC19-SA-WP-12](#)) reviewed the use of model ensembles and characterization of uncertainty in stock assessment models used to provide advice to the WCPFC. The review found that reporting of uncertainty was inconsistent between stock assessments, even within assessments that used consistent methods to characterize

uncertainty. For instance, the quantities reported, terminology used for reporting, and consideration of risk are not consistent between assessments and species.

A key recommendation from Project 113 suggested that more consistent reporting should be developed, to allow for a consistent application of the precautionary principle. A straightforward way to improve and standardise reporting of uncertainty and risk is to develop a template for reporting uncertainties alongside the provision of stock status and management advice. SC19 supported the recommendations made in the report and encouraged the Scientific Services Provider (the Pacific Community) and the ISC¹ to take necessary steps to implement them as appropriate. Most notably, the design of a standardized reporting template including language for stock status outcomes, management advice, and uncertainties, and the development of consistent terminology regarding the description of the stock status probabilities (or risks) relative to reference points are considered a priority. This project aims to develop a reporting template based on international best practice, with reference to WCPFC convention and conservation and management measures in effect.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for this project were provided to SC19 in [SC19-GN-WP-07](#). WCPFC20 also recognized the importance of this project and approved the USD 40,000 budget for this activity in 2024.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Term of Reference (TORs) for this Consultancy is annexed below.

Bids should be no more than 8 single spaced pages. Requests for additional information relating to this consultancy can be obtained from the Finance and Administration Manager (Aaron Nighswander) at Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int.

Applications for the consultancy should include the following:

- Cover letter including proposed methodology, including timeframes, for the evaluation and a capacity statement against the knowledge, skills and experience required in the TOR (under “Consultant/Team Requirements”);
- Financial proposal; and
- CV for the nominated consultant/s.

Submission of EOI should be directed to Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int by 23 February 2024.

¹ International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

Terms of Reference to Develop Stock Status and Management Advice Template for Consistent Reporting of Stock Assessment Outcomes, Uncertainties and Risk

OBJECTIVES

Develop in consultation with assessment working groups and fisheries managers, a reporting template for stock status and management advice that will assist in making stock assessments reported to the WCPFC accountable to a consistent reporting framework.

SCOPE OF WORK²

1. Develop, in consultation with assessment team, the SPC, and fisheries managers, a template for reporting uncertainties alongside stock status and management advice for WCPFC stock assessments. Elements that should be considered as part of this reporting template are:
 - a. Consistently applicable terminology around stock status, uncertainty, and management risk for all stock assessments reported to the WCPFC for efficient communication;
 - b. Recommended measures/classifications of stock status, uncertainty, and risk to be provided for stock assessments in the WCPFC, including descriptions of the measures so that differences between measures can be understood by managers;
 - c. Communication about the quality of information used for determining stock status and management advice,
 - d. Qualification and quantification of uncertainties should consider:
 - Data quality/quantity
 - Model/population: structural uncertainty, biological information/assumptions
 - Parameter/estimation uncertainty
 - e. Specification of the key uncertainties and potential impacts – qualify the likely impact of key uncertainties for stock status and management advice, and,
 - f. Provision of research recommendations to address key uncertainties.
2. Present a summary report with a proposed reporting template, with alternative options (if necessary), for consideration at SC20.

TIMEFRAME

March 2024 – August 2024

² Consultant(s) should refer to [SC19-SA-WP-12](#) for further details on this project TOR.