

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

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**Subject: Request for Proposals for a Consultancy to Develop WCPFC CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment**

Dear All,

Please find attached a request for proposals (RFP) for a **Consultancy to Develop WCPFC CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment**. The deadline for proposals is **12 February 2025**.

The RFP seeks a consultant to conduct a comprehensive Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of select WCPFC conservation and management measure (CMM) provisions. This work will compile and analyze available scientific, MCS, Indigenous/traditional, and peer-reviewed information to identify potential vulnerabilities, data gaps, and research needs. The consultant will develop a WCPFC-relevant framework for assessing climate vulnerability—including a working definition of “vulnerability”—and provide a list of affected CMM provisions for further consideration by CCMs. The outcomes aim to enhance understanding of climate impacts on WCPFC fisheries and ensure sustainable management into the future.

Your assistance in circulating this request to interested parties is appreciated. This information is also available under the [Opportunities](#) section on the [WCPFC website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## Request For Proposal for a Consultancy to Develop WCPFC CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

<b>Date of Issue</b>	15 January 2025
<b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b>	12 February 2025
<b>Contact Information for Inquiries and Submission of Proposals</b>	Aaron Nighswander, Finance and Administration Manager <a href="mailto:aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int">aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int</a> +691 320-1992

### 1. 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](http://www.wcpfc.int).

WCPFC20 affirmed [Resolution 2019-01 on Climate Change as it Relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission](#) (WCPFC) by agreeing to develop a work plan (**Workplan**) and support an assessment (**Assessment**) of the susceptibility of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to the impacts of climate change ([WCPFC20 Outcomes](#)).

In December 2024, WCPFC21 adopted the WCPFC Climate Change Workplan 2024 - 2027 which describes the tasks to be taken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to address climate change impacts on WCPFC fisheries in the Convention Area (Attachment 13, [WCPFC21 Outcomes Document](#)).

The Commission also adopted the Terms of Reference for a CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment which defines the Scope, Objectives, Rationale, Methodology, Timing, and Resources of the Assessment (Attachment 14, [WCPFC21 Outcomes Document](#)). The Commission further agreed to include the following CMMs in the assessment in 2025 and 2026.

2025:

CMM 2011-03 (Cetaceans)  
CMM 2019-05 (Mobulid rays)  
CMM 2022-03 (Sharks)  
CMM 2017-04 (Marine pollution)  
CMM 2010-01 (NP striped marlin)

2026:

CMM 2023-01 (Tropical tunas)  
CMM 2018-04 (Sea turtles)  
CMM 2018-03 (Seabirds)  
CMM 2013-04 (Record of Fishing Vessels)

## **2. Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

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

Requests for additional information relating to this consultancy can be obtained from the Finance and Administration Manager Aaron Nighswander at [Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int](mailto: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.

# Terms of Reference for CMM Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

## OBJECTIVES

1. The Assessment will:  
**Review active WCPFC CMMs defined by the Commission and identify the specific provisions that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs, as being vulnerable to climate change.**
2. The Assessment is not intended to preclude any future consideration, evaluation, or prioritization of any CMM.
3. The Assessment will:
  - a. Support discussions within the Technical and Compliance Committee, on undertaking one of its core functions: to provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures (Convention Article 14.1(a), by identifying monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) data and information gaps and potential management challenges; and
  - b. Support discussions within the Scientific Committee regarding scientific data and information gaps and research needs to improve understanding of impacts of climate change on assessed CMM provisions.
4. The Assessment will focus on improving the Commission's understanding of how climate change impacts might affect existing CMM provisions and does not intend to derive discussions on how those changes may affect the subsidiary bodies' ability to assess compliance with them.

## RATIONALE

5. With the continued dynamic changes of marine environments due to climate change and the potential vulnerability to climate change of species, ecosystems, and CMMs, the Commission has identified a need for work that aims to ensure that relevant information and data collection are adequate to support improved and updated understanding by the Commission on the impacts of climate change and implications for the management of WCPFC fisheries.
6. The value of this Assessment will be in identifying the MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges to improve CCM's understanding of the vulnerability to climate change of certain CMM provisions, and which CMMs might benefit from further discussion (*e.g.*, in area of application, species of focus, or mechanism of implementation), to ensure continued sustainable management of WCPFC fisheries into the future.

## METHODOLOGY

7. The Assessment will:
  - a. compile available advice from the SSP, the ISC, and the Scientific Committee, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge (following collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility, and ethics principles; known as the CARE principles), including but not limited to, species climate vulnerability assessments and research on

geographic shifts of species distributions and other climate impacts on fisheries managed by the Commission,

- b. review and analyze CMM provisions available via the WCPFC website in the context of 12(a); and
  - c. provide to WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies a list of active CMM provisions with an explanation of any identified potential climate vulnerabilities associated with specific provisions.
8. The vulnerability of CMMs to climate change has not been explored or discussed by the Commission. As a first step towards focusing the work of CCMs, this Assessment will provide a definition of “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment.
  9. The Consultant will use available science and existing resources (as specified in paragraph 12 (a), and consistent with the outcomes of paragraph 13) to select a definition for “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment. The definition will be included in initial Assessment outcomes for consideration by CCMs.
  10. In assessing the “vulnerability”, the Assessment will consider, but not be limited to, whether provisions of WCPFC CMMs are implemented based on:
    - a. certain target or bycatch species,
    - b. specific geographic areas,
    - c. different gear types,
    - d. review period, or
    - e. any mention of climate.
  11. The deliverables of the consultancy will be (a) a WCPFC-relevant framework for assessing CMM provisions’ vulnerability to climate change using the best available information per paragraph 12(a), including a definition for “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment as described in paragraphs 13 and 14, (b) a list of the specific CMM provisions identified as being vulnerable to climate change that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs, (c) the identification of MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges, including in instances where more information would improve the Assessment, and (d) after assessing CMM provisions, the Consultant will also suggest minimum/sufficient information required to be able to categorize CMM provisions as either being “vulnerable” or “not vulnerable” to climate change, as appropriate.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

12. The scope of the Assessment:
  - a. is limited to informing (*i.e.* not advising) the Commission and its subsidiary bodies as to whether specific provisions of conservation and management measures (CMMs) might be affected by climate change;
  - b. does not prejudice or have any effect on members’ implementation of obligations arising from specific conservation and management provisions;
  - c. is not intended to initiate, or result in, renegotiation of CMMs; and

- d. will be limited to publicly available information such as adopted CMMs, published climate advice of the SSP, the ISC, and Scientific Committee, peer reviewed scientific literature, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge, including species climate vulnerability assessments and research on geographic shifts of species distributions.

**TIMEFRAME**

- 13. The proposed timing for the Assessment to support CCMs in discussions at the Commission and its subsidiary bodies’ meetings is as follows:

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Description</b>
January 2025	Initiate the Consultancy and Assessment of the initial subset of CMMs.
February 2025	Initial compiled list of available information sources (paragraph 12a) in a bibliography and targeted literature review.
March 2025	A WCPFC-relevant framework for assessing CMM provisions’ vulnerability to climate change using the best available information, per paragraph 12(a), including a definition for “vulnerability” to be used for the Assessment.
April 2025 - June 2025	<p>A list of the specific CMM provisions identified as being vulnerable to climate change that could benefit from additional discussion among CCMs.</p> <p>The identification of MCS and scientific data and information gaps, research needs, and potential management challenges, including in instances where more information would improve the Assessment.</p> <p>Suggested metrics of minimum/sufficient information required to be able to categorize CMM provisions as either being “vulnerable” or “not vulnerable” to climate change, as appropriate.</p>
June - September 2025	Results from the Assessment of at minimum the CMMs defined by the Commission provided as information papers to support CCMs during discussions at NC21, SC21, TCC21, and WCPFC22.
2026	Iterate the Assessment to apply to additional CMMs as directed by the Commission.