Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

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

Circular No.: 2026/112
Date: 4 November 2026
No. pages: 6

Subject: Call for Proposals for the 2027 Japan Trust Fund

Dear All,

Please find attached a call for project proposals for funding support under the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) for 2027. The JTF program will continue to prioritize projects related to the development of harvest strategies and the application of new monitoring technologies.

The objective of the JTF is to support capacity building among developing island States concerning fisheries statistics, regulation, and enforcement, including:

(a) data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC, and

(b) establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective enforcement of, in particular, the conservation and management measures adopted by WCPFC.

Project proposals should provide a clear and concise description of the background, purpose, justification, expected outcomes, and required budget, preferably within 3–5 pages. An example template is attached to this Circular (Annex 1).

The **submission deadline for proposals is Tuesday, 15 December 2026**. If you have any inquiries about the JTF, please contact the Secretariat's Assistant Science Manager (elaine.garvilles@wcpfc.int).

Yours sincerely,

Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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INFORMATION PACKAGE

Call for proposals for the 2027 Japan Trust Fund

Introduction

This is to inform developing States and Participating Territories of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, particularly small island developing States (SIDS), that the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) has secured a budget of **US$145,097** to cover 2027 activities, which is now available for proposal submission. Japan has advised that it will be more selective in approving projects for funding under the JTF in 2027, giving priority to proposals that are closely aligned with the Fund's objectives and demonstrate clear benefits to developing States and Participating Territories.

The JTF is a multi-year program with funding support provided by the Government of Japan. Its initial phase was for 5 years from 2008 to 2011. The second phase was for 5 years from 2012 to 2016 and was extended for a further 2 years. The third phase was from 2019 to 2023. The ongoing fourth phase of the JTF focuses on supporting capacity building among WCPFC small island developing State Members. Consideration will also be given to the participation of other developing State Members to ensure that they are not unduly excluded from WCPFC activities relating to fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement. Proposals from eligible CCMs will be welcomed, noting that any project proposals that overlap with those proposed by SPC/FFA will be reviewed by the JTF Steering Committee.

Applicants are required to prepare a project proposal describing the background, purpose, necessity, expected outcome, and budget required for the project in a short but clear and concise manner of around 3 – 5 pages (sample template in **Annex 1**). The deadline for proposal submission is **Tuesday, 15 December 2026**. The JTF Steering Committee will review and select projects for funding, with the aim of announcing approved projects in early 2027. As a general rule, projects approved for 2027 are expected to be completed by the end of 2027. A brief narrative and full financial report should be submitted to the Steering Committee through the Secretariat no later than 30 days after completion of the project. If you have any inquiries about the JTF, please contact the Secretariat's Assistant Science Manager (elaine.garvilles@wcpfc.int).

Objective

To support capacity building among developing island States with respect to fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement in the following areas;

(a) data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC, and
(b) establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective enforcement, in particular, the conservation and management measures adopted by WCPFC.

Scope and Tasks

Provision of project proposals with budget implications.

Outputs

Project beneficiaries shall submit narrative progress reports, as applicable, and a final narrative report (using the report template in **Annex 2**), together with a full financial report. The final reports shall be submitted to the Secretariat's Finance and Administration Manager (Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int), with a copy to the Assistant Science Manager (elaine.garvilles@wcpfc.int), no later than 30 days after project completion.

Budget

In principle, **JTF funding is not intended to fund hiring permanent staff, construction of infrastructure nor the purchase of hardware and non-expendable equipment**. Where hardware or non-expendable equipment is essential for project implementation, leasing arrangements should be considered, to the extent possible, during the project period.

Expressions of Interest

The consultancy related to the implementation of the project proposal 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 in the proposal.

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

Annex 1

JAPAN TRUST FUND PROJECT PROPOSAL

[Country Name]

Title

Development and improvement of tuna fisheries data collection for Pohnpei artisanal and semi-artisanal tuna catch in the coastal waters.

Principal Investigator

Mr/Ms. Principal Investigator (brief CV attached)

Background and needs

The problem of a lack of inshore fisheries data exists throughout the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia. In the late 1980's, a program provided sufficient information on fishing effort in the inshore fishery, but this was phased out a decade later due to funding constraints.

In 2015, a fish market study was conducted to provide baseline data on coastal fish catch but it did not focus on the amount of tuna landed by local fishers. Tuna fishing such as trolling and bottom fishing, is one of the most important sources of income for most of the fishers. The lack of basic statistics on tuna and tuna-like fishes in the inshore fishery is a serious concern for small developing island countries, not only for resource management but also for improving food self-sufficiency. Therefore, there needs to be a program or system in place that will gather and compile information on tuna catches from inshore fishing activity. These data can also help to fill the tuna catch data gaps with regard to landings by local fishers.

Objectives

1. To develop a fisheries data collection program for providing information on tuna catch within Pohnpei coastal waters with the assistance of SPC-OFP.
2. To enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on proper methods of data collection on tuna catch from local fishers.

Work Proposed

- To conduct a workshop for State Fisheries Officers on data collection procedures or methods.
- To assess and purchase required materials and equipment for improvement of tuna fisheries data collection and management.

Expected Outcome

- A tuna statistics program may provide more accurate information on inshore tuna catch.
- Improved availability of information on inshore fishery for resource management purposes.
- An increased number of Fisheries Officers fully trained in proper data collection, management, and analysis.
- The experience obtained through this project can be extended to other important fish species like reef fishes.

Budget

The requested budget will cover: the travel costs of a trainer from SPC-OFP to conduct training for Pohnpei State Fisheries Officers regarding basic fisheries data collection, management, and analysis; online or hybrid training options may be considered. Travel costs for a local Fisheries Officer to travel to all outer islands of Pohnpei to establish a data collection program, train and hire counterparts in these six outer islands are included in the budget. The cost of fuel is included in this initial request because it was not reflected in our 2027 fiscal year budget but it can be accommodated in FY2028.

Item	**Cost**
Travel and per diem for SPC-OFP staff to conduct workshop in Pohnpei • Round trip for Noumea/Pohnpei - $6,000 • Per diem – 5 days ($120/day) - $600	$6,600
Travel and per diem for State Fisheries officer to outer island to train locals on data collection • Cost of traveling to 6 outer islands to train Data Collectors	$ 1,500
Six Outer Island Fisheries Data Collectors Contract • 6 Data Collectors ($200/month for 12 months)	$ 14,400
Fuel for data collection • Fuel will be used for outer islands and the main island during data collection • $2,000 for 6 islands and $500 for the main island	$ 2,500
TOTAL	**US $25,000**

In-Kind Contribution

Item	**Cost**
Salary (1 Fishery Officer)	$10,000
Vehicle	$15,000
Boats (6 boats with engines at outer islands)	$ 33,000
Total	**US $58,000**

Submitted by:

Marine Resources and Development Agency

Pohnpei State Government, P.O. Box B, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941

Contact Person: Mr Jose Dela Cruz

Annex 2

JAPAN TRUST FUND PROJECT REPORT
[Country Name]

I. Project Title

II. Project Objectives

[Please provide a brief description of the specific objectives and the expected results of the project as indicated in the project proposal]

III. Results and Discussions

[Please provide a summary report of the key project activities and results including graphs, figures, photos and/or other supporting documents. Please indicate whether the project has achieved its expected outcomes. Also, include any challenges encountered in the project implementation and suggested ways forward]

IV. Budget *(if the project has been completed, please provide details)*

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	
Funds Utilized	
In-Kind Contribution *(if any)*	
Other Funding Source/s *(if any)*	

Note: additional supporting documents may be requested as deemed necessary

V. Fund Balance *(if any, after the project has been completed)*

[Please indicate any remaining fund balance upon project completion and provide details of its proposed disposition, subject to the applicable JTF financial procedures and approvals.]

VI. Comments/Conclusions/Suggestions/Recommendations

[Please provide any comments, conclusions or recommendations concerning the implementation of the project and the effectiveness of JTF support.]