

WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2356

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www.wcpfc.org

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Development of a Program Document for the Regional Observer Program

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 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

One of the Commission's priority tasks is to develop a Regional Observer Program that supports both scientific and compliance functions, and be coordinated, to the extent possible, with existing national, regional or sub-regional observer programs to avoid duplication. The Commission will also need to develop standards and procedures, including training and certification procedures, so that existing observer programs can contribute to the Regional Observer Program to the maximum extent possible.

The Commission's most urgent task in relation to the development of a Regional Observer Program is the drafting of a program document that describes:

- a. the immediate objectives of the Regional Observer Program;
- b. institutional arrangements for its implementation;
- c. science, technical and compliance-related elements of the program, including collaboration between the Scientific Committee, and the Technical and Compliance Committee; and
- d. a timetable and plan for implementation of the Regional Observer Program across all fleets operating in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).

It is planned to progress the Commission's task of drafting a program document for the Regional Observer Program under a contract with a suitably experienced and qualified person, who may be affiliated with a company or firm, who either has documented experience as an observer program coordinator or who can demonstrate that he/she has a thorough understanding of regional observer programs.

The Commission Secretariat invites the submission of expressions of interest (EOI) to complete the consultancy described below. The EOI should include a timetable for delivery of the consultancy outcomes and an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy.

Objective

To draft, in consultation with interested Members and Cooperating Non-Members, a program document for the Regional Observer Program that will be considered at the second regular session of the Scientific Committee to be held at Manila, Philippines from 07 to 18 August 2006, and at the second regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee to be held at Brisbane, Australia from 28 September to 03 October 2006.

Scope

The scope of work under this assignment will include the drafting of a program document that describes:

- a. the immediate objectives of the Regional Observer Program;
- b. institutional arrangements for its implementation;
- c. science, technical and compliance-related elements of the program, including collaboration between the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee; and
- d. a timetable and plan for implementation of the Regional Observer Program across all fleets operating in the WCPO.

Outputs

A report, the basis of which is a draft program document for the Regional Observer Program, in a form that may be readily adapted for presentation to the second regular session of the Scientific Committee to be held at Manila, Philippines from 07 to 18 August 2006, and to the second regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee to be held at Brisbane, Australia from 28 September to 03 October 2006.

Expressions of Interest

The consultancy will commence as soon as possible after the selection of the winning bid. Suitably qualified observer program coordinators are invited to submit bids to undertake the assignment described above. Bids should include:

- a. a capability statement detailing qualifications and relevant experience for individual team members and/or the agency bidding for the consultancy;
- b. a work plan, with milestones and budget for the consultancy; and
- c. contact details for individuals who can comment on previous work by the bidder that is relevant to this consultancy.

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

Requests for additional information relating to this consultancy and submissions of EOI should be directed to:

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