



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

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Call for Expressions of Interest

Dear All,

Please find attached a **Call for Expressions of Interest for a Scientific Committee Project: Identifying appropriate Limit Reference Points for elasmobranchs within the WCPFC**. The deadline for applications is **Monday 20th March 2017**. Could you please circulate as you deem appropriate to interested parties. You may also reference this information under Opportunities section at WCPFC website www.wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,



Feleti Penitala Teo, **OBE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2356, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Scientific Committee Project:

Identifying appropriate Limit Reference Points for elasmobranchs within the WCPFC

Terms of Reference to Call for Expressions of Interest

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

The Commission endorsed the request from the Eleventh Scientific Committee (SC11) for USD 25,000 to continue the development of limit reference points for elasmobranchs. The Commission tasked SC12 to develop a scope of work to progress this work within the budget allocated for 2016 (Paras 69-70, FAC9 Summary Report). This project is based on the terms of reference developed by SC12, which are reflected below.

OBJECTIVE

This project is to complete the work initiated by S. Clarke and S. Hoyle and presented to SC10 (as described in WCPFC-SC10-MI-WP-07), and the subsequent work undertaken by the Pacific Shark Life History Expert Panel (as described in WCPFC-SC11-EB-IP-13), to identify and quantify appropriate limit reference points for key shark species in the WCPO.

WCPFC-SC10-MI-WP-07: <http://www.wcpfc.int/node/19015>

WCPFC-SC11-EB-IP-13: <http://www.wcpfc.int/node/21738>

SCOPE AND TASKS

This project will facilitate a small workshop, or similar, of shark and stock assessment experts to undertake the following tasks:

1. For those elasmobranchs which have been evaluated using a stock assessment model, recalculate the risk-based limit reference points (as described in Table 5, WCPFC-SC10-MI-WP-07) using the updated life history information produced by the Shark Life History Expert Panel.
2. For those elasmobranchs which have not been evaluated using a stock assessment model advise on ways of developing an estimate of current fishing mortality (F), for example using catch curves, the method used in the bigeye thresher assessment (WCPFC-SC12-SA-IP-17), or other suitable means. Risk-based LRPs (as described in WCPFC-SC10-MI-WP-07) should then be developed for all WCPFC key shark species.
3. Where the stock-recruitment relationship is highly uncertain, compare F_{current} to SPR-based LRP such as $F_{60\% \text{SPR}_{\text{unfished}}}$ and discuss any new insights into the recommended estimated LRPs so that the WCPFC Scientific Committee can decide on a case-by-case basis which LRP is most appropriate.
4. Review the use or otherwise of other potential LRPs based on SPR, reduction of recruitment or empirical measures (e.g. catch rate or length values designed to signal unacceptable population states).
5. Advise on any changes or updates to the recommended LRPs in WCPFC-SC10-MI-WP-07 based on new developments, including any suggestions for further technical work before consideration of adoption of LRPs by fishery managers.
6. Review the work presently being undertaken by ISC on the development of stock-recruitment relationships and their parameter estimates, such as stock-recruitment steepness for North Pacific blue shark and assess the applicability of extending this work to other key shark species, especially South Pacific blue shark.

OUTPUTS AND SCHEDULES

The outputs of the project will be:

- Submission of a draft report to the Secretariat by 16 June 2017 for review by the SC's Research Sub-committee (RSC).
 - RSC comments will be forwarded to the author by 30 June 2017.
- The author will address RSC comments and provide the final report to the Secretariat by 22 July 2017.
- The author will present the final report at the Thirteenth WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting (SC13) (an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy should include the travel cost required for the contractor's presentation at SC13 in the Cook Islands, August 2017)

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

The Principal Investigator for the project should liaise with the WCPFC Secretariat to help facilitate and coordinate arrangements for the workshop (e.g. arranging travel for the participants).

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The consultancy will commence as soon as possible after the selection of the winning bid. 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, a timetable for delivery of the consultancy outcomes and an estimate of the costs involved in undertaking the consultancy;
- c. contact details for individuals who can comment on previous work by the bidder that is relevant to this consultancy.

Bids should be no more than 8 single spaced pages. In assessing the merits of bids received, cost efficiency and cost effectiveness will be important considerations. Requests for additional information relating to this consultancy should be directed to the Science Manager (SungKwon Soh) at sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int.

Applications should be submitted to the Science Manager (SungKwon Soh) at sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int by close of business on **Monday, 20 March 2017**.