

## WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2356  
Kolonia  
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Federated States of Micronesia  
[www.wcpfc.int](http://www.wcpfc.int)

### INFORMATION PACKAGE

#### Identifying Provisional Limit Reference Points for the key target species in the WCPFC

##### 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 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 25 Members and two Cooperating Non-Members. The three Pacific Overseas Territories of each of France and the US and Tokelau are Participating Territories within the Commission. Additional information concerning the Commission, including copies of recent decisions, is available from [www.wcpfc.org](http://www.wcpfc.org)

Annex II of the Agreement and Article 6 of the WCPFC Convention provide the legal framework for the application of the precautionary approach and guidelines for its application to fisheries management in the western and central Pacific Ocean. In particular, Article 6 requests that stock-specific reference points be determined together with the action to be taken if they are exceeded. Currently, however, the Commission has not formally adopted any specific reference points but has largely used default MSY-based reference points in its evaluation of stock conditions.

Recently, the need for alternative reference points has been discussed and to progress this issue the Commission has requested the Scientific Committee review and identify suitable limit reference points for the key target species. The Sixth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC6) in August 2010 recommended that four tasks identified at SC5 be completed, and the results be reported to SC7 and, if appropriate, to the proposed Management Objectives Workshop to be held in 2011. Two of the four tasks related to the limit reference points research will be undertaken by the Science Service Provider to the WCPFC (the Oceanic Fisheries Program at the

South Pacific Commission, SPC-OFP) whilst the work associated with the two tasks listed below (the study) is being put out to tender for which USD 10,000 has been budgeted.

These Terms of Reference have been prepared to solicit expressions of interest (EOI) from suitably qualified and experienced individuals, institutions or firms to undertake the study. The EOI should outline how the tasks listed below will be addressed, and include a time table for delivery of the consultancy outcomes according to the schedule outlined below and the costs involved in traveling to SC7 to present the study outcomes if required.

### **Objective**

To review and identify candidate Limit Reference Points for the key target species in the WCPFC.

### **Specific Tasks**

1. Identify candidate indicators (e.g.  $B_{current}/B_0$ ,  $SB/SBMSY$ ) and related limit reference points (e.g.  $B_{current}/B_0=X$ ,  $SB/SBMSY=Y$ ), the specific information needs they meet, the data and information required to estimate them, the associated uncertainty of these estimates, and the relative strengths and weaknesses of using each type within a management framework.
2. Undertake a literature review and meta-analysis of related stock-recruitment relationships to provide insights into the levels of depletion that may serve as appropriate limit reference points and other uncertain assessment parameters (e.g. steepness).

### **Outputs and Time Schedule**

A report for consideration at the Seventh Regular Session of the Scientific Committee to be held at Koror, Palau, 9-17 August 2011. In order that the candidate reference points to be identified in this study are available for the additional analyses to be completed by SPC-OFP, it is desired that the results of the study be completed by the end of May 2011.

### **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 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:

The Executive Director  
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by close of business on **Sunday, 31 October 2010.**