



***This re-advertisement supersedes the same advertisement closed 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Applications in response to the original advertisement will be considered and applicants need not re-apply. Recruitment will follow standard selection procedures, with successful candidate being chosen by the Director General on the basis of merit.***

## **Feasibility of alternative regional longline management options – Terms of Reference**

### ***Background***

1. The FFC<sup>1</sup> has mandated the FFA Secretariat to conduct a study on alternative longline management options that could be implemented on a national, regional, or sub-regional basis to enhance effective management of the longline fishery. In particular the focus of the study will cover the tropical longline fishery that target bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and the temperate/ south pacific longline fishery that target South Pacific albacore. There are other considerations in the longline fishery such as fresh and frozen longline fleets, and switching targets between albacore, bigeye, yellowfin and swordfish.

2. In 2008 a similar study was commissioned by the FFA Secretariat and the findings were discussed by FFA members. The objective of the study was to provide advice to FFA Members on alternative longline management arrangements for regional tuna fisheries. Amongst others, the report suggested a suite of alternative options for catch, effort and capacity controls and arrangements that can be explored for application in the regional longline fishery. The conclusions of the study are such that:

*- Catch controls provide the best option from a conservation point of view because they are a direct control over fishing mortality. However catch controls such as TAC's and national quotas are very difficult and expensive to monitor requiring massive observer coverage, offloading inspections and national databases;*

*- Effort control through capacity controls such as vessel numbers or size limits are an ineffective management option requiring sophisticated national monitoring; and*

*- Effort control such as a vessel day scheme is, despite the complexities of implementation, the most practical option providing national control, regional monitoring using the existing VMS, and national development planning.*

3. In response to these outcomes, the PNA<sup>2</sup> principally adopted the longline vessel day scheme to manage tropical longline fishery in their national waters. The Parties further tasked the

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<sup>1</sup> Forum Fisheries Committee (FFA Governing Council)

<sup>2</sup> Parties to the Nauru Agreement

FFA Secretariat to develop an implementation strategy for the scheme. This year, the Parties at its annual session, discussed the implementation strategy and adopted it. The Parties also discussed the draft scheme outline as well as preliminary scientific analyses with regard to the design features of the scheme. The Parties tasked the Secretariat to progress with development work on the scheme outline, undertake further analyses and, explore further other management options.

4. However, in 2008, the SC-SPTBF<sup>3</sup>, in discussing the outcomes, “noted the interest of some members to explore the longline VDS concept further at broader FFC meetings and on a sub-regional basis. Members noted the benefits of a structured sub-regional management regime. Also, the group noted the need to continue progressing alternative regional longline management arrangements. This includes the conduct of the feasibility study on an implementation strategy. This work should also include the exploration of other options, as well as their implications. The study should also include consultations with each member.”<sup>4</sup>

5. The feasibility study was partly completed this year. The initial components of the study which focuses mainly on development and technical aspects of the longline VDS concept were completed. This was presented and discussed at the annual session this year. The final part of the study on alternative options that examine the feasibility of alternative longline management options was not completed. The progress of this work was discussed at the annual session of the SC-SPTBF and FFC this year, which approved the proposed consultancy, subject to inputs and comments from members during the meetings, so as to properly complete the full study.

6. On this basis, this consultancy is now designed to carry out this mandate, both from the PNA & SC-SPTBF groupings, by defining and assessing the feasibility of various alternative management options and scenarios that could be implemented for this purpose, in order to provide guidance to FFA members.

7. FFA members are committed to developing and implementing alternative zone-based management, and including measures for the longline fishery. This partially stems from having the bulk and potential quantity of target tunas taken directly from FFA waters. FFA countries will want, in the first instance, ensures that zone-based longline management controls are developed, to their satisfaction and to achieving the balance amongst conservation, economic and development goals in waters under their jurisdictions. Furthermore, members insist that any form or type of alternative zone-based management measures they adopt sub-regionally/ regionally should not undermine their aspirations to promoting domestic development, and exercise of sovereign rights and control of the fishery in waters under their jurisdictions.

8. There are well developed operational tuna management and development plans for some FFA PICs already in place. These plans contain suites of management arrangements and strategies including effort and catch limits, along with other technical measures, as well as appropriate supporting Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) tools. However, not all the members have in place policy documentation, or fully developed MCS-related mechanisms and frameworks that would support monitoring and compliance. Furthermore there are currently no form or type of sub-regional/ regional longline management strategies and arrangements in place for FFA countries. The exception to this are the relevant CMMs related to the longline fishery such as the South Pacific albacore measure, Southwestern swordfish measure, Southwestern striped marlin measure and the bigeye/ yellowfin measure.

9. Details on the current state of such national management arrangements, and other background material will be made available to the consultant prior to the commencement of the assignment.

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<sup>3</sup> FFC Sub-Committee on South Pacific Tuna and Billfish Fisheries

<sup>4</sup> SC-SPTBF4/ Officials/ WP.11, Strategic work plan and budget. Apia, October, 2008.

## ***Objective***

10. This consultancy will contribute an assessment to the feasibility of alternative zone-based longline management options, strategies and arrangements for the regional longline fishery. The exploration and assessment of these options will take into consideration key issues relative to, among others, zone-based, promotion of domestic development, exercise of sovereign rights & control of the fishery and consideration of sub-regional and regional longline management systems.

11. Furthermore the feasibility work will include the qualitative and quantitative analyses of pros and cons of alternative zone-based management options with regards to, *inter alia*, aspects on conservation, economic and compliance. The study will also include cost-benefit analyses of options being proposed.

## ***Scope of Consultancy***

12. The Consultancy will consist of three phases:

**Phase 1:** The initial activity will consist of an inception visit to the FFA offices in Honiara and subsequent home office desk work, the objective of which is to produce a detailed discussion paper that sets out proposed alternative zone-based longline management measures, options, strategies and arrangements. At this initial phase, the Consultant will:

- I. Analyse existing and current longline management limits on capacity, catch and effort, and consider alternatives for the potential towards more effective controls and limits;
- II. Describe and critically assess the salient issues for and against each measure, including a cost / benefit analysis for each measure considered. The specific analyses will clearly identify the impacts of options at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- III. Assess the effectiveness of each measure with regard to:
  - i. The examination of tuna movements/ distribution, multi-species consideration, wider management context within the WCPFC process, implementation logistical difficulties (e.g. fleet size, placement of ALCs and monitoring); and
  - ii. Driving positive and sustainable economic outcomes.
- IV. Consider alternative zone-based longline management options for balancing the benefits from a flexible scheme, which:
  - i. Provide access to the most efficient and profitable fleets, with benefits from long-term bilateral relationships in the longline fishery; and
  - ii. Despite concerns to SIDS exemption in WCPFC measures, must promote legitimate and responsible domestic development, which includes members with/without domestic longline fleets and onshore facilities.
- V. Examine clearly dramatic variation between longline vessels fishing in different areas and targeting different stocks against each measure incl. longline VDS. Also consider the impact of a relatively large longline fleets that will be managed under any form or type of longline management scheme or arrangement;
- VI. Examine the adequacy of existing license criteria, including the application of domestic and locally-based longline vessels;
- VII. Consider options that cater for changing circumstances and complex size structure in the longline fleets and new entrants, including the introduction of a size limit under any form or type of management arrangement incl. vessel day scheme;

- VIII. Provide an explicit consideration of the value of a single regional or separate sub-regional longline management system. This may be due to the nature and characteristics of two distinct (but often overlap) longline fisheries:
- i. For the largely domestic longline fisheries in the south a flag-based catch system could be optimal because of the small number of vessels that are nationally-flagged and locally-based or owned; and
  - ii. The northern tropical longline fishery with large number of longline vessels, most trips are inter-zonal and with WCPFC flag limits in place, a zone-based effort system could be optimal.
- IX. Develop short term “holding measures” and confirmed support for further development of a long term regional longline arrangement based on effort or catch limits;
- X. Prepare allocation models that would examine administrative details such as: setting TAE/ TAC, distribution of PAE, monitoring and trades, min. participation level, multi-year considerations, locally-based foreign longline vessels, flexibility of quota system (carry-overs, transfers), and other implications for implementation schedule; and
- XI. Identify legal implications of each measure at the national/ regional level with regard to access agreements or other form or type of bilateral or self-imposed arrangements, fees structures, etc.

**Phase 2:** This discussion paper will be circulated to FFA members for internal consideration at the national level, and as a prelude to country visits and consultations by the consultant and FEA or FMA.

**Phase 3:** Finalisation of the full report, based on national level consultations carried out in (2) above, and on comments from the FFA Secretariat.

13. The alternative zone-based longline management options to be considered by the consultant shall include, but need not be limited to:

- TACs & national allocations
- National capacity allocations
- National effort allocations/ regime
- National catch limits/ scheme
  
- Regional limit on vessel numbers
- Regional limit on days fished
- Regional limit on hooks set
- Competitive/ Olympic type regional catch limit

### ***Fieldwork***

14. During the course of the consultancy, and following the preparation and circulation of the initial brief described in the preceding section of this Terms of Reference, the consultant shall arrange visits, in consultation with and agreement by the FFA Secretariat, to selected FFA countries in order to engage in discussions with senior fisheries officials and other interested parties and stakeholders, including private sector operators and processors. The use of phone interviews and consultations in the margins of FFA meetings would be encouraged for FFA countries that would not be possibly visited. The best quality output of this work is paramount

and not to be compromised as a result of not having to visit all FFA countries or in regard to deadlines.

### **Deliverables & Reporting Deadlines**

15. The Consultant shall prepare and submit a concise report addressing the requirements of these Terms of Reference, accompanied by a short powerpoint presentation suitable for transmission of the study's findings to future FFA meetings of the SC-SPTBF and PNA.

16. A draft report and PowerPoint shall be submitted to the FFA Secretariat within 90 days of the date of commencement of this contract, on which comments will be made within one week.

17. Within one week of receiving these comments back from the FFA Secretariat the final report in electronic form (MS Word) must be submitted to FFA.

### **Reporting and Coordination**

18. The Consultant will:

- Report to the FFA Fisheries Management Advisor
- Coordinate with the FFA Fisheries Economic Advisor

### **Submission of Bids**

19. Interested candidates should submit full details of their qualifications and experience in doing similar consultancy work in a CV of not more than 6 pages; the proposed methodology of consultancy work in not more than 4 pages; the date of availability noting the timing as per this advertisement; and any information relevant and related to the above activities. In addition the candidates should also submit a schedule and break-down of his/her fees taking into consideration the bid ceiling below.

### **Evaluation of Bids:**

20. Bids for the consultancy will be evaluated for technical merit against the following criteria –

- A clear and logical outline of the plan of work;
- A demonstrated experience in the longline fishery and well informed with conservation, economic, management and compliance issues relative to this fishery at a regional and national level
- A demonstrated experience and familiar with network of contacts in Pacific Island countries to enable access to perceptions and views on longline management options from stakeholders
- A demonstrated experience of preparing qualitative and quantitative analyses (incl. CBA, options analyses), technical and non-technical reports in the English language.

### **Timing and Duration:**

21. The consultancy is expected to commence in August 2009 and will be completed by October 2009. It is expected that the study will be undertaken by one consultant, and will require approximately 30 days' work. The study will rely mainly on desk work and consultations with relevant stakeholders in selected FFA countries in accordance on the methodology proposed.

Applications close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Late applications and those that do not comply with the requirements above will not be considered.

**Cost ceiling**

22. The cost of the consultancy, including travel and per diem, will not exceed USD40, 000. In cases where financial bids are evaluated, only the cost of fees will be compared. Airfares will be reimbursed according to actual costs incurred in travelling by the most economical and direct route. Per diems are provided using prevailing international rates.

*Please submit all applications by closing date on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and address to the Director, Fisheries Management Division, FFA, P.O. Box 629, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Or email the FFA Secretariat using these email contacts: [moses.amos@ffa.int](mailto:moses.amos@ffa.int)*