

Terms Of Reference for Independent Consultancy

Employer	AGAC
Title	MSC Consultant
Duration (tentative)	Six Months (renewable)
Job category	Part-time
Place of assignment	Own residence
Travel	Occasional (to be scheduled)
Remuneration	Competitive, depending on experience
Applications	Julio Morón (julio.moron@opagac.org); Miguel Herrera (miguel.herrera@opagac.org); Isadora Moniz (fip@opagac.org)

Background

The Association of Large Tuna Freezers (AGAC) is an Association of Companies involved in tuna fishing and processing activities. AGAC represents 48 fishing vessels, which operate in tropical and sub-tropical waters of the Atlantic, Indian, and Western and Eastern Pacific oceans. Fishing is conducted using purse seines. The Companies under AGAC have a long history of responsible fishing practices through implementation of both best social standards and measures to ensure the sustainability of the stocks of tropical tunas on which they depend and minimize impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem.

In 2022 the AGAC Fishery was awarded the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification for six of its thirteen target stocks, with three additional stocks, which are undergoing a scope extension at present, likely to be certified in the following months.

MSC certification processes are complex, as they involve annual surveillance audits of the fisheries certified plus other processes to integrate new vessels or stocks into the certificates (through MSC Gap Analyses and Scope Extensions); or other processes intended to improve the status of other target stocks so as they are eligible for MSC Certification, such as Fisheries for stocks In Transition to MSC Certification (ITM) or other Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP).

Global objective

Prepare the non-yet certified units of the AGAC fishery to be assessed against the MSC Standard, through the implementation of In Transition to MSC Projects (ITM).

Specific objectives

The purpose of this TOR is to set out the requirements for an MSC Consultant who will be responsible for the execution of ITMs for AGAC vessels running outside of the scope of the AGAC MSC Certificate, as well as its progress verification, reporting and management, and liaising with stakeholders and funders.

Requested Services

The MSC Consultant will work as an Individual Consultant to AGAC, on a fixed-term basis. The incumbent will work at her/his own residence/office. The work may include traveling to the AGAC headquarters (Madrid) and/or the companies that own the ships concerned and/or field trips related to activities implemented under the scope of the ITMs. He/she will be responsible for the overall management of the ITM Projects not under AGAC and will act as the liaison with all stakeholders. The MSC Consultant will work with AGAC, the fishing companies, other independent consultants and national and regional representatives and provide support as and when required.

The following duties are required:

- Prepare the information required by the MSC's Client Document List and complete it for the pre-assessment of the fisheries, in consultation with the Clients and AGAC;
- Assist the MSC Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), as identified by AGAC, in the design of the ITM;
- Develop the ITM Improvement Action Plan, budget, other MSC forms and required, and coordinate its implementation in consultation with AGAC, the fishing Companies, National and RFMO representatives, and all other parties involved;
- Design Projects to implement activities under the ITM, identify and secure funding sources and Consultants to execute those activities; and assist the preparation of reports for funders, clients and AGAC, as required;
- Prepare the annual Progress Verification reports and assist with annual surveillance audits;
- Communicate the ITM details to the broader seafood community looking for responsible sources of tropical tuna, when required.
- Assist AGAC with any other duties related to the MSC Certification process, where required.

Qualifications and skills:

- A degree in fisheries marine science, or similar;
- Experience in Project management;
- Proficient English and working knowledge of Spanish;
- Preference will be given to applicants that have attended at least one MSC Capacity Building Training Level 2 training in the past two years.

General professional experiences:

- Knowledge on MSC Fisheries Certification Process and MSC Fisheries Standard;
- Previous experience on FIP coordination;
- Knowledge of tRFMO science and management processes, preferably for tuna fisheries;
- Knowledge of industrial purse seine fisheries for tropical tunas;
- Knowledge of national and international organizations, in particular Tuna-Regional Fisheries Management Organizations such as IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, and WCPFC.

Duration

Following the signature of the contract, the AGAC MSC Consultant will be available for mobilization within 10 working days. The exact date shall be agreed with AGAC. The assignment will be for 6 months with a view to extending the assignment based on Project needs and incumbent performance.

Reporting

- Prepare the information required by the MSC's Client Document List and complete the list for the pre-assessment of the fisheries, in consultation with the Client(s) and AGAC;
- Prepare the Action Plan for the ITM, in Consultation with AGAC;
- Prepare reports and relevant information for internal mid-term ITM progress evaluation;
- Prepare the ITM Progress Verification reports;
- Prepare monthly reports for AGAC which will include summary ITM outcomes and Budget expenditure.