

# FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

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## Qualifications for Comprehensive FIP Consultants

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FisheryProgress requires that comprehensive FIPs' pre-assessment, related scoping document (if applicable), workplans, and in-person audits (required every three years) are conducted by a party experienced with applying the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard (e.g., a [registered MSC technical consultant](#) or [accredited conformity assessment body](#) or has other demonstrated qualifications approved by the reviewer).

The following clarifies the third category – those with other demonstrated qualifications. It establishes criteria that [FisheryProgress.org](#) will use to determine if a consultant has the demonstrated qualifications necessary to complete an MSC pre-assessment and related scoping document (if applicable) or conduct a comprehensive FIP's in-person audit of activity results and performance against the MSC standard.

### 1. General Eligibility Criteria

The consultant(s) must qualify in at least one of the following:

- University degree in fisheries, marine conservation biology, natural resources, environmental management, or relevant field (e.g., economics, mathematics, statistics);
- OR**
- At least 3 years management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources, or environmental management position.

### 2. Fishery Experience

The consultant(s) must qualify in at least one of the following areas of fishery expertise:

- **Fish stock assessment:** at least 3 years of experience as a leader in the production of peer-reviewed stock assessments;
- OR**
- **Fish stock biology/ecology:** at least 3 years of experience working in fisheries biology and population dynamics;
- OR**
- **Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems:** at least 3 years of experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems.
- OR**
- **Fishery management and operations:** at least 3 years of experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery policy analyst.

### 3. Understanding of the FIP Process

The consultant(s) has/have contributed to at least two FIP workplans that meet the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions' Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects since 2015.

### 4. Understanding of MSC Fisheries Standard

The consultant(s) must qualify in at least one of the following:

- Have undertaken a minimum of 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits as a team member in the past 10 years (evidence: announcement documentation and/or assessment report) and successfully completed the [online assessor training modules](#) for the latest version of the fisheries standard (evidence: certificate of completion);

**OR**

- Is currently listed on the [MSC's Register](#) as a technical consultant or associate technical consultant.

**5. Communication, Stakeholder Facilitation, and Project Management Skills (optional)**

FisheryProgress also recommends the following background:

- Experience applying various interviewing and facilitation techniques.
- Experience engaging with stakeholders in fisheries management, science, or fisheries policy development on a range of fisheries and resource sustainability issues.
- Record of consultancy work, project development, and management.