Qualifications for Comprehensive FIP Consultants
Version 1.0
2020

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.