

FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

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.