



Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine (Marpesca)

Terms of Reference for Review of Flag State Fisheries Management

Background to the Project

The fishery within this Fishery Improvement Project is the [Eastern Pacific Ocean tuna - purse seine \(Marpesca\) fishery](#) that targets bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) and yellowfin (*T. albacares*) tuna. There are five purse seine vessels flagged to Ecuador, Nicaragua and Panama, fishing on the high seas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) (and occasionally in national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)). They are operated by Marpesca and are managed regionally by the IATTC. They fish both using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) and free school (non-FAD associated).

Method

The preassessment was completed in October 2019 and was a desk based analyses including the management of the three flag states. However, due to the nature of this preassessment gaps identified in the preassessment could have occurred due to language barriers and not engaging with the flag states.

For this project we are looking for a consultant that build on the preassessment and assess the Flag state Fisheries Management systems in relation to Principle 3 Indicators using the [MRAG Americas and Walton Family Foundation Fisheries Governance Tool v1.0 2019](#). We expect the consultant to engage with flag states and experts in the region to ensure all relevant information is collected that may have been missed in the preassessment. A plan must then be completed to combat the gaps identified for the FIP to build into their FIP workplan to be able to achieve MSC Certification.

Deliverables

The following deliverables are expected for this project:

- Fisheries Governance Tool Excel Spreadsheet
- An accompanying document detailing the findings, how these were found (engagement with flag states) and a plan to combat these gaps identified.

Technical Knowledge

The consultant for this project must have:

- Experience with the MSC Fisheries Standard
- Working knowledge of FIPs
- Spanish speaking
- Contacts within or able to make contacts within the flag state authorities.

Timeline

We expect the project to begin in Q4 2021 and expect the consultant to fit to the following timeline:

Activity	Deadline
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Kick off the project	1 October 2021
Provide the first draft to be reviewed by the FIP	12 January 2022
Complete any amendments raised by the FIP and provide the final report	1 February 2022

Budget

To carry out this review, engage with the flag states and to develop plan to combat the gaps identified we are looking for a budget of EUR 5,000.