
Terms of Reference

IOTC Second Performance Review Science Expert

Last updated: 18 December 2014

Background

The IOTC is an intergovernmental organization established under article XIV of the FAO constitution. The IOTC agreement was concluded in 1993 and entered in force in 1996. The IOTC is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas with primary objective the conservation and optimum utilization of the stocks for long-term sustainability.

The main functions of the IOTC are to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information. In addition to this, the IOTC is also a repository for other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement. Finally, one of the main functions of the IOTC is to encourage, recommend, and coordinate research and development activities in respect of the stocks and fisheries covered by the Agreement, and such other activities as the Commission may decide appropriate. These may include activities connected with transfer of technology, training and enhancement, with the need to ensure the equitable participation of members of the Commission In particular those from developing countries.

Aims and Objectives:

The main task is to evaluate progress made on the recommendations arising from the first performance review. In addition it will focus on the effectiveness of the Commission to fulfil its mandate, in accordance to the ToR and criteria to conduct the second Performance Review of the IOTC, and notably to the criteria set forth below with regards to the delivery and management of the science process, and advice.

The overall objective is to:

1. Carry out an assessment of the IOTC science process as per its mandate. In doing the review, the strengths, weakness, opportunities and risks to the organisation should be evaluated, including the involvement of CPC in science and the implementation of Scientific Committee recommendations.
2. Assess the consistency between scientific advice and CCMs adopted.
3. Review the recommendations on science from the first performance review, notably through the tables/matrix prepared by the Secretariat.
4. Make recommendations on how to improve the IOTC Science including any changes to process.

Scope:

The work to be carried by expert shall be in accordance to the following criteria.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Status of living marine resources

- Status of fish stocks under the purview of the IOTC in relation to maximum sustainable yield or other relevant biological standards.
- Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the IOTC species (hereinafter “non-target species”).

Data collection and sharing

- Extent to which the IOTC has agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submission, taking into account UNFSA Annex I.
- Extent to which IOTC members and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, individually or through the IOTC, collect and share complete and accurate fisheries data concerning target stocks and non-target species and other relevant data in a timely manner.
- Extent to which fishing data and fishing vessel data are gathered by the IOTC and shared among members and other RFMOs.
- Extent to which the IOTC is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.
- Extent to which the IOTC has set standards for the collection of socio-economic data from the fisheries, as specified in the IOTC Agreement; and extent to which this information is used to inform decisions from the Commission.
- Extent to which the IOTC has set security and confidentiality standards and rules for sharing of sensitive science and operational/compliance data.

Quality and provision of scientific advice

- Extent to which the IOTC receives and/or produces the best scientific advice relevant to the fish stocks and other living marine resources under its purview, as well as to the effects of fishing on the marine environment.
- Extent to which science data that impacts compliance processes is shared, discussed and utilised.

Adoption of Conservation and Management Measures

- Extent to which the IOTC has adopted Conservation and Management Measures for both target stocks and non-target species that ensures the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem as well as of such stocks and species and are based on the best scientific evidence available.
- Extent to which the IOTC has applied the modern fishing principles, as MSY or the precautionary approach as set forth in UNFSA Article 6 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.5, including the application of precautionary reference points and harvest control rules.
- Extent to which the IOTC has adopted and is implementing effective rebuilding plans for depleted or overfished stocks.
- Extent to which the IOTC has moved toward the adoption of Conservation and Management Measures for previously unregulated fisheries, including new and exploratory fisheries.
- Extent to which the IOTC has taken account the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimise harmful impacts of fisheries on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.
- Extent to which the IOTC has adopted measures to minimise pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.

Estimated time frame:

It is estimated that a consultant would be required for 15 working days to carry out the work. This would include the following output: a draft report containing the result of analysis and recommendations based on the above criteria.

Estimated budget and suggested timelines:

Component/Activity	Target	Total cost (US\$)
Desk Review + 2 meeting days.	8 days	4800
Drafting the report, including recommendations	6 days	3600
Participate in one IOTC Performance Review Panel Meeting Secretariat (Seychelles, Tickets & DSA)		8000
Review Final draft Report	1 day	600
Total estimated cost	15 days	17000

Submission Deadline:

The Secretariat should receive the Expression of Interest by the 26th January 2015 and should include, a motivational letter, a CV, a work plan and an indicative timeframe.