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CALL FOR TENDERS

**Framework Contract for the provision of scientific advice for
fisheries beyond EU waters**

EASME/EMFF/2019/014

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

Open Procedure

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EASME/EMFF/2019/014

**FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE
FOR FISHERIES BEYOND EU WATERS**

1. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (henceforth "EASME" or "the Contracting Authority")¹, acting under the powers delegated by the European Commission, is launching this invitation to tender for a framework contract (FWC) in cascade for a study providing scientific advice for fisheries beyond EU waters.

The purpose of the FWC is to provide services according to the needs of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (henceforth referred to as "DG MARE"). The types of services to be provided are further detailed in the Section 1.4 and 1.9.

A "multiple FWC in cascade" will be concluded with a maximum of three selected tenderers. A "multiple FWC in cascade" means a situation whereby a FWC is concluded between the Contracting Authority and two or more economic operators, to lay down the basic terms for a series of specific contracts to be concluded over a given period, particularly the duration, subject, price, implementing conditions and quantities envisaged. The Contracting Authority will rank the tenderers in descending order with a view to establishing the list of contractors and the sequence in which they will be offered orders. Following the conclusion of the FWC, for each specific assignment the Contracting Authority will request the contractor at the top of the list to submit a specific tender and it will conclude the specific contract with that contractor unless is unavailable or incapable to respond for reasons which do not entail terminating the contract. In that case, the Contracting Authority will contact the second contractor on the list, and then, if necessary and under the same conditions, the third contractor. More information about the specific contracts can be found in Section 1.5.2.

1.2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)² aims at ensuring that *"fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits and of contributing to the availability of food supplies"* (Article 2 of the CFP). Also, according to this policy, fisheries management shall apply precautionary and ecosystem approaches in order to ensure that

¹ EASME was set up by Commission Implementing Decision (2013/771/EU) of 17 December 2013 establishing the "Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises" and repealing Decisions 2004/20/EC and 2007/372/EC (OJ L 341 of 18.12.2013). EASME replaces and supersedes former Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).

² Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.

exploited populations are maintained above levels that can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and that negative impacts on the marine ecosystem are minimized, including through the elimination of discards with the implementation of the landing obligation. It shall also be guided by principles of good governance (Article 3 of the CFP).

Regarding the external policy, the described objectives, principles and elements shall be promoted at international level by the EU. This commitment is established by the Commission Communication on the External Dimension of the CFP³ and, most importantly, by Part VI of the CFP Regulation, Article 28, where it is stipulated that *"the EU shall conduct its external fisheries relations in accordance with its international obligations and policy objectives as well as the objectives and principles set out in Articles 2 and 3"*, and that the EU should *"ensure that fishing activities outside Union waters are based on the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law in the area of the CFP"*.

At international level, the EU is a key player through its participation to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and through the establishment of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) with third countries. Moreover, in recent years, there is also an increasing trend in various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to address issues that are linked to the conservation of marine species, particularly those harvested by fisheries and thus under the remit of RFMOs. In this context, the European Commission relies on the provision of best available scientific advice for defining its strategy, achieving EU objectives, fulfilling its role and meeting its obligations at international level. Such scientific advice concerns a wide range of issues, including fishing exploitation rates, the conservation status of exploited marine biological resources, the state of the marine ecosystems, as well as the related technical, social and economic aspects.

RFMOs, SFPAs and MEAs rely on scientific advice provided by their scientific bodies (Scientific Committees (SC) and Joint Scientific Committees (JSC), respectively), which in turn rely mostly on active contributions by the national scientific communities of the Contracting Parties (CPs). In many instances these bodies have limited resources and do not always have the capacity or flexibility to provide scientific advice on all the issues that might be necessary to clarify or to further develop in order to react in due time when new requirements for advice arise. The EU is committed to supporting the work of these bodies in various ways to ultimately ensure their effective and transparent functioning, and to foster their capacity to deliver best available scientific advice for underpinning sound management decisions. This could include funding of relevant scientific studies and supporting the participation of experts/scientists in the work of these bodies in addition to the overall funding of the EU Data Collection Framework (EU DCF-MUP)⁴ given for the EU fishing fleets.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on External Dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy. COM(2011) 424 final.

⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 of 17 May 2017: on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (Recast).

Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002 of 16 December 2002: establishing specific access requirements and associated conditions applicable to fishing for deep sea stocks.

EU delegations involved in the work of these bodies need to be ready to contribute to developing science-based proposals or analysing and determining the scientific relevance of proposals of other CPs, all for which they rely on scientific advice. This is particularly important in preparation of RFMO, SFPA or MEA meetings where future conservation and management measures are discussed and adopted, as well as for other relevant international instruments that address issues related to the conservation of marine ecosystems and biological resources, including fisheries' impact on the marine ecosystems. Ultimately, this ensures that the best available science effectively feeds into the decision making process at both EU and international level (multilateral and bilateral).

This FWC will enable addressing the specific needs for scientific advice on the conservation of marine ecosystems and biological resources, as the basis for the management of fisheries beyond EU waters (could be partially carried out also in EU waters). It will be used not only for the provision of scientific advice but also for other specific preliminary services needed for the provision of the advice, when required. Such services may well comprise the collection, collation, verification and analysis of data on stocks, ecosystems, fisheries and related socio-economic aspects that are not provided by other instruments such as the DCF.

In order to avoid any overlapping or duplication, EASME will make sure, in close coordination with EC-DG MARE, that this FWC addresses issues that cannot be dealt with existing instruments for the provision of scientific advice in the required timeframe.

For further background information:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/index_en.htm

The call for tenders is based on Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of The Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund⁵ and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and, in particular, on the Commission Implementing Decision of 13.12.2018 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2019 and the financing for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, C(2018) 8395 final⁶.

1.3. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

EASME wishes to enter into a FWC in cascade covering the international dimension of the CFP (excluding the Central Arctic Ocean⁷) in the areas of competence of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision of 12 July 2016 (2016/1251/EU): Adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019 (notified under document C(2016) 4329).

⁵ Official Journal of the European Union, L 149/1, 20.5.2014.

⁶ Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2019 and the financing for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (C(2018) 8395final), of 13 December 2018, section 1.3.2.3. https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/docs/c-2018-8395_en.pdf

⁷ EASME/EMFF/2018/003: Framework Contract for the provision of Scientific Support to the High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO).

The objective of this FWC is to provide the EC-DG MARE and the Contracting Authority with a flexible tool to request specific and timely scientific advice on issues related to the conservation of marine ecosystems and marine biological resources, as well as management of fisheries carried out, fully or partly, beyond EU waters and of interest for the EU. In addition, this tool will also cover other services needed for the provision of the advice within the context of the external dimension of the CFP, excluding the Arctic as well as the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea for species not covered by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)⁸. The advice and services are sought to support relevant EU services in the various aspects of their participation and contributions to RFMOs, SFPAs, and Regional Fishing Bodies (RFBs) without management mandate, or yet in areas in the high seas not at all covered by any RFB or any other relevant international instrument, which require scientific advice in line with the relevant CFP objectives and provisions.

The call for tender aims at selecting contractors capable of providing highly qualified experts on fisheries related sciences and producing best available scientific advice that will be used, on demand, by means of specific service requests. Prior to entering into specific contracts on the basis of such requests, their detailed technical specifications and budget will be defined. The service requests will stipulate the exact nature of the work to be carried out, i.e. the type of analysis and scientific advice needed, the tasks to be performed, the deliverables and outputs expected, resources to be allocated, exact duration and reporting structure.

The Contractor may be required to collaborate and liaise with relevant organisations (e.g. National Institutes/University teams/research teams), including RFMOs, relevant research institutions in third countries with which the EU has, or may have, SFPAs in force, etc.

The work will mainly consist of studies and services sometimes to be carried out within a relatively tight timeframe.

1.4. TASKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

1.4.1. Tasks

Upon specific request of the Contracting Authority, the contractor will provide scientific advice and support as needed. The specific requests will cover, inter alia, issues such as the status and productivity of fish stocks, the knowledge basis for fisheries management, ecosystem conservation, and the socio-economic aspects of the exploitation of marine biological resources and fisheries management in areas covered by RFMOs, SFPAs, and other international instruments. If requested, the contractor must also provide specific studies and participate in relevant meetings according to the needs and priorities identified by the EC-DG MARE and the Contracting Authority.

The main categories of tasks covered under this contract will be to:

- **Carry out studies and analyses** regarding the assessment of:
 - 1) the structure, functioning and conservation status of the marine ecosystems and marine biological resources; and

⁸ Species under the provision of ICCAT or caught associated with ICCAT fisheries are covered by this framework contract in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea.

2) the technical, scientific, conservation and bio-economic considerations, including also livelihoods and food security issues, on the development and/or implementation of fisheries management measures; both in the context of the external dimension of the CFP (excluding the Central Arctic Ocean), namely RFMOs, SFPAs, and other relevant international instruments.

- **Facilitate and coordinate the participation** of scientific experts in technical or scientific meetings of RFMOs, SFPAs and other relevant international instruments; and **advise the** EC-DG MARE throughout the duration of the specific contracts, and during specific meetings, on scientific subjects related to the work of such international instruments and the external dimension of the CFP;
- **Assess the implementation** of certain policy or management measures in waters beyond EU jurisdiction and the impact those measures may have on the conservation of marine biological resources and on the socio-economic benefits of the fishing fleets potentially exploiting those resources;
- **Support the** EC-DG MARE **works** in RFMOs, SFPAs, and other relevant international instruments, including MEAs where required, through the implementation of coordination activities such as flagging emerging scientific issues and challenges, organising of ad hoc working groups/meetings bringing together Member States (MS) experts, or contributing to the dissemination of relevant scientific and technical outcomes to stakeholders, among others. The follow-up of scientific deliberations and meetings is essential.

The services may include desk, field or experimental work and may include, inter alia, the following:

- the collation, review, and critical analysis of existing scientific or historical information (e.g. on fisheries data, programmes/standards for data collection, data provision by EU members, conservation status of species, etc.) currently disperse or heterogeneous;
- the collection of new scientific and technical information by embarking on fishing vessels, and carrying out surveys or trials at sea and in ports;
- the verification of data quality, scientific analysis, evaluations, simulations and modelling;
- the monitoring of fisheries and/or marine biological resources in ports and at sea;
- the performance of selectivity trials and experimental fishing actions at sea, either with research or with commercial vessels, may also be requested in cases where punctual higher sampling intensity or more targeted strategies may be needed to carry out specific studies and analysis.

Concerning the provision of data, the Contractor must ensure that all relevant data is available to carry out the necessary work. Where appropriate, data collected through the EU DCF-MUP or other relevant EU regulations may be requested by the Contractor from the relevant Member States (MS). For the purpose of the provision of data, the Contracting Authority and the Commission might assist the Contractor, to the extent possible, in getting into contact with other research teams and in getting access to relevant data that have been either funded or co-funded with EU budget.

The Contractor must ensure that all collated and collected raw data will be stored in adequate and quality checked database(s) available and accessible to the Commission and the Contracting

Authority throughout the duration of the FWC, as well as after its end. Furthermore, the contractor must ensure the maintenance of the database(s), the proper storage of the protocols and computer coding used in the production of the contracted studies and their availability to the Contracting Authority and the Commission services upon request. The Contractor must ensure that all collated data and raw information is stored and used in compliance with the security and confidentiality requirements as applicable. In this regard, tenderers attention is drawn to the fact that it is the contractor's responsibility to respect the European legislation with regard to data protection⁹. Please be aware that the relevant legislation on data protection imposes additional obligations on the Data Processor (Contractor) and Data Controller (Contracting Authority).

1.4.2. Geographical scope of the tasks

The geographical scope of this FWC covers the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, Antarctic and adjacent seas (excluding the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea for species not covered by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)). The range of stocks, fisheries and ecosystems to be covered is wide and includes highly migratory species (as tunas, sharks and rays, swordfish and billfishes), small pelagic, demersal and deep-sea species, amphihaline species, and unwanted by-catch species (in particular, non-commercial and/or protected species).

Regarding tuna RFMOs (t-RFMOs), particular importance and priority should be given to highly migratory species, including tropical and temperate tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish managed by the:

- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT¹⁰)
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC¹¹)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC¹²)
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC¹³)

Regarding non-tuna RFMOs and RFBs, particular importance and priority should be given to pelagic, demersal and deep-sea biological resources, managed by the:

- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO¹⁴)
- North East Atlantic Organization (NEAFC¹⁵)

⁹ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8/1 of 12.01.2001), currently under revision and completed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation-GDPR), OJ L 119/1 of 4.5.2016.

¹⁰ <http://www.iccat.es/en/>

¹¹ <http://www.iotc.org/English/index.php>

¹² <http://www.wcpfc.int/>

¹³ <http://www.iattc.org/>

¹⁴ <http://www.nafo.int/>

- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)¹⁶
- South Indian Ocean Fisheries Arrangement (SIOFA)¹⁷
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)¹⁸
- Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)¹⁹
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)²⁰
- The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)²¹
- The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)

Regarding SFPAs, of particular importance and priority are the multi-species, or mixed agreements, with the following partner countries and including the indicated resources:

- Morocco: pelagic, demersal and deep-sea resources;
- Mauritania: pelagic, demersal and deep-sea resources, including fish, crustaceans and cephalopods;
- Gambia: demersal resources;
- Guinea-Bissau: pelagic, demersal and deep-sea resources, including fish, crustaceans and cephalopods;
- Senegal: pelagic and deep-sea demersal resources;
- Greenland: pelagic, demersal and deep-sea resources.

Regarding other relevant international instruments, generally of global scale and abovementioned as MEAs, priority will be given to fisheries-related aspects addressed in the context of the:

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)²²;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)²³;
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (MoU Sharks)²⁴;

¹⁵ <http://www.neafc.org/>

¹⁶ <http://www.sprfmo.int/>

¹⁷ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/siofa/en>

¹⁸ <http://www.ccamlr.org/>

¹⁹ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cecaf/en>

²⁰ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/wecafc/en>

²¹ <http://www.nasco.int/>

²² <http://www.cms.int/en>

²³ <http://www.cites.org/>

²⁴ <http://www.cms.int/sharks/>

- Other international instruments as appropriate.

The range of fisheries management organisations and fisheries agreements may extend during the development of the contract, depending on priorities to be defined by the EC-DG MARE and Contracting Authority.

1.5. GENERAL GUIDANCE ON METHODOLOGY

1.5.1. Work packages

The following work packages illustrate examples of tasks, the scope and expertise needed. All tasks listed in the work packages are non-exhaustive and might be extended by other services necessary for the completion of the assignment.

The scenarios described in the work packages below are for evaluation purposes only (see section 4.4 "Award criteria") to assess the ability of the tenderer to implement tasks of a similar nature to the ones that could be assigned during the course of the FWC. They do not represent real case studies containing any real data or information.

➤ WORK PACKAGE 1: PROVISION OF FISHERIES SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FOR STOCKS COVERED BY RFMOs AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) are international organisations established by countries with fishing interests in a wide geographical area. Their role is to guarantee the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources covered in their remit by setting catch and effort limits, technical measures, or control and monitoring obligations. There are two types of RFMOs: those which manage fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks, like tunas (tuna RFMOs), and those which manage fisheries exploiting other fish stocks (non-tuna RFMOs). The scientific advice necessary to establish conservation and management measures within RFMOs is generally coming from scientific bodies of these organisations. In some cases, it is necessary to further develop or complement available scientific advice or to provide new advice on topics not covered by the RFMO scientific bodies in order to have a better understanding of the overall implications of certain measures.

In this sense, the tenderer may be requested to cover, through specific contracts, inter alia, the following:

- Stocks assessments of biological resources (e.g. single stock, mixed fisheries, multispecies approach) using a range of methodologies, from simple data-limited methods to highly structured statistical models (e.g. age structured and/or length based) with spatial and seasonal components, such as the ones applied in certain RFMOs (e.g. Stock Synthesis 3²⁵, MULTIFAN CL²⁶);
- The evaluation of benchmark stock assessments by fully analysing and reviewing new

²⁵ Methot, R.D. 2011. User manual for Stock Synthesis: model version 3.23b. Nov 7, 2011. NOAA Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA.

²⁶ Fournier, D. A., Hampton, J., and Sibert, J. R. (1998). MULTIFAN-CL: a length-based, age-structured model for fisheries stock assessment, with application to south pacific albacore, *Thunnus alalunga*. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 55(9):2105--2116.

data sources;

- The development and application of new ensemble modelling approaches to estimating stocks and fisheries status;
- The development or review of existing precautionary approach frameworks for RFMOs;
- The analysis of a range of management options (e.g. spatial and/or seasonal closures, capture/landing size limitations, etc.) with a view to:
 - 1) evaluate fishing mortality changes, biomass and yield forecast in line with the MSY exploitation rate, or any another management objective adopted by RFMOs;
 - 2) improve more selective gears and fishing practices and gradually eliminate discards by minimising, if not avoiding, unwanted catches;
- The evaluation of economic, social and employment implications and benefits of a range of management options;
- The provision of scientific advice, also through simulations by Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)²⁷, for the development of multiannual plans or harvest strategies/management procedures including, inter alia, Harvest Control Rules (HCRs), to advise on stock-size, catch and/or fishing effort levels while taking into account uncertainties and risk analysis. The modelling may concern either single stocks or mixed fisheries while considering interactions between fish stocks and fisheries, the precautionary and the ecosystems-based approaches, and in consistency with the CFP objectives described in Article 2(2) of the CFP Regulation;
- The critical evaluation and recommendations of the scientific monitoring of relevant fisheries and other biological resources by taking into account the EU DCF-MUP, other monitoring sources developed under the aegis of RFMOs/SFPAs (e.g. observers programmes, Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS), fishery independent surveys, ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), ICCAT Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP), etc.), as well as existing ongoing coordination mechanisms between EU scientists (e.g. Tropical Tunas Treatment tool (T3), Regional Coordination Group for Large Pelagic Stocks (RCGLP), etc.).
- Develop fishery independent surveys, including namely conception and design, feasibility study, and pilot project.
- Genomic based approaches for the identification of stock structure, movements and mixing between stocks, biomass/abundance estimates, biodiversity monitoring, sex identification, ageing and issues related with traceability.
- The development of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EBFM) in

²⁷ De Oliveira J.A.A., Kell L.T., Punt A.E., Roel B.A., Butterworth D.S., (2008). Managing without best predictions: the management strategy evaluation framework, In: Payne A.I.L., Cotter J., Potter T. (Eds.) *Advances in fisheries science 50 years on from Beverton and Holt*. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing, pp. 104–134.

the different tuna and non-tuna RFMOs, which may include:

- Environmental and biological characterization of the ecosystem(s)
- Identification of quantifiable ecosystem indicators;
- The impact of fisheries on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)²⁸ and the consideration of mitigation measures such as move-on rules or alternative approaches;
- Impact and reduction of unwanted by-catches of non-target species such as non-commercial or protected species (e.g. some sharks, birds, turtles, cetaceans and juveniles of certain stocks) in tuna fisheries, in particular in fisheries using Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) and longline as fishing gear;
- Multispecies interactions and ecosystem changes linked to stock fluctuations and changes in stock dynamics, as is the case with rebuilding stocks after a period of moratorium (e.g. interactions between redfish, shrimp and cod in the Flemish Cap of the Northwest Atlantic).

Implementation of any of these requests will involve a variety of tasks ranging from data collection programmes, to modelling, stock assessment methods, statistical methods, fish biology and ecology assessments (of tunas, small pelagic and demersal species); analysis of fisheries socio-economics and market driving forces, use and development of i) marine ecosystems descriptors and mapping tools, ii) fisheries technology, iii) geographic information systems (GIS); assessment of MSEs and governance systems; use of information and communication technologies, or lead and contribute to policy and stakeholders dialogues.

Scenario 1a: Developing inclusive and adaptive management procedures, robust to uncertainty sources, through a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework: approach, challenges and opportunities with respect to the current fisheries management system

Any fisheries management framework needs to be supported by clear management objectives stressed by policy makers. The MSY objective, the precautionary approach with respect to safe biological limits, and the ecosystem approach have been to different extents and in different forms, included in fisheries policies and management frameworks of RFMOs. These are high-level aspirational objectives that can be operationalized by defining measureable targets and associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over established timeframes. Operational objectives are the foundation of any management procedure.

The assessment process, of both the current status of fish stocks and fisheries and of the impacts of possible new or updated management measures, requires the definition of specific benchmark values (Reference Points) for each parameter or indicator associated to the MSY, precautionary approach or ecosystem approach. Reference Points (RPs), either empirical or model-based, are therefore core elements for the evaluation of harvest strategies and allow for the design, adoption and implementation of HCRs. Nonetheless, a fully implementable harvest

²⁸ UNGA (2006) Resolution 61/105 Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments. UNGA A/RES/61/105.a.

strategy (*sensu* management procedure) needs to be characterised also in terms of monitoring data, assessments methods (either model or indicators based) and management measures. Ultimately, such strategy needs to be tested, through a MSE approach, as to demonstrate robust performance vis-à-vis the agreed management objectives taking into account plausible uncertainties about stock and fishery dynamics.

The MSE mechanisms rely on a duly constructed and conditioned set of Operating models which represent both the plausible alternative states of the fish stocks as well as the fisheries' responses to the socio-economic implications of a range of management options. It is therefore important to also explore ways of integrating bio-economic aspects in MSE modelling of fisheries behaviour and economic objectives.

The MSE approach could also facilitate the dialogue amongst stakeholders for the development of management procedures.

Objective

Under this scenario, tenderers must depict the scientific approach to the setting-up and conditioning of Operating Models, and to perform MSE simulations, including possible robustness tests, in order to identify appropriate management procedures (including HCR, data monitoring and assessment method(s)). The stock(s) concerned can be either hypothetical, with fishery and biological characteristics determined by the tenderer, or one of the main stock(s) under a specific RFMO (tunas or non-tunas) relevant for the EU fisheries.

The specific management objectives that are to be met:

- A probability of at least 70% for preventing the overfishing of the stock and for recovering or maintaining the stock level above that supporting MSY.
- Less than 5% of the stock falling/below the safe biological limit defined by Blim (i.e. limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (SSB)), or other suitable parameter to be justified by the tenderer.
- Maximise averaged overall catch levels over a certain time frame (to be justified by the tenderer) while staying above B_{msy} (i.e. biomass that enables a fish stock to deliver MSY).

Current implementation of RPs and HCRs in the framework of (tuna and non-tuna) RFMOs presents a number of limitations, mostly related to the uncertainty in stock assessments and subsequent projections of the future status of the stock.

There are several sources of uncertainty, though most of them are due to a lack of appropriate data to feed current models, as well as limitations inherent to the models themselves.

Simulations through, in particular, MSE are increasingly been used to evaluate the impact of the main sources of uncertainty inherent to the system being managed. A benefit of this framework is that a greater range of sources of uncertainty, than those within traditional stock assessments, is considered. The traditional assessments consider mainly uncertainty in observations and are usually based on a single methodology. Uncertainties about the stocks and fisheries dynamics are, to a large extent, not taken into account but have a large impact on

achieving management objectives. When providing management advice it is important to consider appropriate sources of uncertainty (i.e. observations, process, estimation and implementation errors).

Furthermore, consultation of fishing stakeholders is an important step in the development of MSE-based management procedures.

Outputs

An offer of 10 pages maximum (5 000 words) outlining (RFMO and stock(s) at the choice of the tenderer):

- The necessary data and the data sources;
- The list of tasks, and their description;
- The proposed approach to engage the concerned RFMO or other organisation(s), taking into account their current scientific advisory process and management framework;
- The analysis to be performed and methodologies to be used for the setting up and conditioning of Operating Models, for the execution of robustness tests and for the performance analysis;
- Likely ways to incorporate economic considerations and, where adequate, multispecies approaches, in MSE;
- The relationships between safe biological levels, counteracting the risk of stock depletion, with respect to the management target within an MSY management framework;
- The associated uncertainties and the limitations of the proposed methods;
- Considerations on the approaches, including already existing consultative tools (e.g. Advisory Councils, Regional Coordination Groups, etc.) to improve stakeholders' involvement in the development of MSE-based management procedures;
- The organisation of the work and of the team involved in the tasks described;
- Timeframe for the completion of the tasks and the overall work (e.g. Gantt Chart).

Scenario 1b: Impact of gear specification in longline (LL) fisheries on the mitigation of accidental catches with protected species, and on catch rates of targeted species.

There is a long lasting discussion in many t-RFMOs in relation to the impact of long line (LL) fisheries on unwanted species such as sea turtles, sea birds and non-commercial shark species. The main mitigation options generally used to reduce the rate of unwanted by-catch by LL depend on species and/or life-stage, but in many cases involved hot spots identification/avoidance, bait type/size, and setting/gear specification. In addition, some experimental approaches highlight the possible use of weak electrical pulses, or specific housing for hooks, to mitigate unwanted by-catches.

Although some key t-RFMOs have adopted measures aiming at mitigating the impact of LL fisheries on these species, it is still difficult to assess their effectiveness. This is mostly because of the lack of compliance data, interaction and mortality rates, and post release mortality and trade-offs observed in existing approaches.

In addition to that, different mitigation techniques might have also an impact on the catch rates of target species. This might affect the economic performance of LL fleets and further compromise the efforts for the management of target species and the conservation of unwanted by-catch species, especially those that might need particular attention and protection.

Objective

Under this scenario, the tenderer should provide an offer with a view of defining appropriate mitigation options to balance the conservation benefits for unwanted by-catch species (sea turtles and non-commercial sharks) and the economic viability for the EU LL fleets targeting swordfish, also beyond EU waters. This shall be done through a combination of a preliminary literature review, identification of ideal data collection, as appropriate, and description of potential experiments at sea.

More specifically, the tenderer must:

- Identify and characterise the EU LL fleets targeting swordfish, in terms of their fishing strategies and practices and, particularly, their gear specifications;
- Analyse existing literature and collect any necessary data that might be relevant for the purposes of the study;
- Estimate accidental interactions and mortality rates (including post-release) of key unwanted by-catch species (sea turtles and non-commercial sharks) by relevant fleet or group of fleets, and catch rates of target species;
- Define a range of possibly appropriate mitigation options to be tested in relevant fleets or fleet groups;
- Develop a protocol for and implement multifactorial experiment at sea to define the benefits and shortcomings (including socio-economic) of predefined mitigation options;
- Propose appropriate mitigation options for each relevant fleet or fleet groups.

Outputs

An offer of 10 pages maximum (5 000 words) outlining (RFMO and stock(s) at the choice of the tenderer):

- The necessary data and data sources;
- The list of tasks and their description;
- The proposed strategy to engage with LL operators and relevant research institutes and/or RFMOs;
- The methodologies and experimental designs to be used;
- The limitations in terms of proposed methods, expertise available, etc.;
- Possible alternatives to address any limitations identified;
- The organisation of the work and of the team involved in the tasks described;
- Timeframe for the completion of the tasks and the overall work (e.g. Gantt Chart).

➤ **WORK PACKAGE 2: PROVISION OF FISHERIES SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FOR STOCKS COVERED BY SFPAs**

The CFP requires that SFPAs with third countries should ensure sustainable exploitation of fish resources. Specifically, Union fishing vessels shall limit their catch to the available biological surplus as referred to in Article 62(2) and (3) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The CFP Regulation (Article 31) specifically mentions that surplus should be "*identified, in a clear and transparent manner, on the basis of the best scientific advice*", and that for highly migratory fish stocks "*the determination of the resources available for access should take due account of scientific assessments conducted at the regional level*".

The EU has a long history of SFPAs, with third countries in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, of essentially two types: agreements covering only highly migratory species (so called "tuna" agreements) and agreements covering demersal and/or small pelagic resources in addition to highly migratory species (so called "mixed" agreements). The estimation of surplus is mostly relevant for the "mixed" agreements and specifically for small pelagic and demersal resources. For highly migratory stocks the estimation of available fishing opportunities makes more sense at a regional level, as specified by the CFP.

In this context, specific service requests could be launched to cover, inter alia, the following:

- Stock assessments and provision of scientific advice of marine biological resources using a range of methodologies, including also ensemble modelling approaches, and with particular focus on data-limited methods (e.g. for data-poor stocks);
- The estimation of the surplus of resources exploited;
- The analysis of a range of management options (including spatial and/or seasonal closures, minimum conservation reference sizes, and fishing gear characteristics) with a view to reach, or maintain, the MSY exploitation rate on a progressively increasing rate, and towards discards free fisheries;
- The analysis of data collection and data management approaches for stocks and fisheries;
- Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) based tools to investigate commercial fishing effort upon relevant species;
- The evaluation of socio-economic implications of a range of management options;
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing MSE-based management procedures (either through assessment models and/or empirical indicators-based).

Scenario 2: Estimation of surplus for small pelagic and demersal resources

Objective

Under this scenario, tenderers must provide the approach and rationale on how to deliver scientific advice on possible alternative management options for the available surplus of i) small pelagic stocks covered by mixed SFPAs in Western Africa, and ii) demersal stocks covered by mixed SFPAs in areas other than Western Africa.

More specifically, the tenderer must:

- Compile information on management objectives and strategies implemented by coastal states or regional management bodies;
- Establish criteria to define the most important stocks in the area and for the EU fleet, compile available data necessary to estimate surplus for the main stocks covered by the mixed agreements, and identify data gaps;
- Analyse different methods, depending on the type of data available and the type of assessment models used, to evaluate surplus values;
- Deliver surplus estimates for the main stocks while taking into account, to the extent possible, fisheries and catches carried out by non-EU fisheries in the EEZ of the concerned coastal State.

Outputs

An offer of 10 pages maximum (5 000 words) outlining:

- The necessary data and the data sources;
- The list of tasks and their description;
- The proposed strategy to engage institutions from third countries or other organisations, while taking into account the current scientific advisory process and management framework;
- A description of the fisheries and catches carried out by non-EU fishing vessels operating in the EEZ of the coastal state concerned;
- The analysis to be performed and methodologies to be used;
- The associated uncertainties and the limitations of the proposed methods;
- The organisation of the work and of the team involved in the tasks described;
- Timeframe for the completion of the tasks and the overall work (e.g. Gantt Chart).

➤ **WORK PACKAGE 3: SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN THE CONTEXT OF RFMOs, OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND SFPAs**

In the last years, the European Commission has launched a process to improve science in RFMOs. In a number of these organisations, a lot of effort has been put into the adoption of "*Best Science Resolutions*", as well as in building upon science-based recommendations of recent performance reviews by RFMOs²⁹.

RFMO Conventions foresee the setting-up of a scientific body for the delivery of scientific advice. Such Conventions also determine their tasks, composition and functioning. Contracting

²⁹ Report of the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. New York, 22-26 May 2006. A/CONF.210/2006/15.

Parties (CPs) are members of scientific bodies of RFMOs and may designate scientists for the meetings. Some RFMOs have developed their own scientific capacity, within their Secretariat, and have become responsible for performing most of the related analysis to support the advice.

The EU must always be represented in the scientific bodies of those RFMOs and other relevant international instruments to which it is a contracting part. However, European Commission's scientific experts can only attend a limited number of priority meetings and, thus, for the remaining meetings the EU participation can only be ensured by European scientists of Member States' competent authorities, research bodies and institutes. These experts are therefore called to represent the EU in close coordination with the European Commission.

Specific service requests could be launched in order to cover:

- The coordination throughout the year of the EU delegation of scientists participating in scientific meetings of RFMO scientific bodies, advisory committees of relevant international instruments or JSC meetings of SFPAs;
- The participation in scientific or management meetings of RFMOs and SFPAs, and where necessary, represent the EU in these meetings;
- The provision of scientific advice and support to the European Commission before and during international meetings, negotiations and as necessary throughout the year. This requires the analysis and interpretation of scientific advice from diverse sources, as well as a good communication and presentation of scientific and technological issues to non-specialists;
- The identification and flagging of emerging issues and challenges faced by particular RFMOs/SFPAs/MEAs;
- The provision of scientific advice for the definition of specific scientific work to strengthen, through targeted EU funding, the science basis of these organisations and follow up of related projects;
- The review of literature and data sources, together with expert judgement, about specific scientific topics for particular fishing areas; notably those not covered by any RFB, and for which the European Commission requires scientific advice;
- Ensure liaison with National Institutes/University teams/research teams on data gathering and data management issues
- The assessment of the performance of individual EU member states in the provision of data to the relevant RFMOs and the notification to the European Commission of the most important data submission failures;
- The development of standards for data collection, data validation and biological sampling within RFMOs and SFPAs. Currently, there are no standards for certain scientific bodies and the design of sampling programmes and the quality of data submitted is totally dependent on each party;
- The evaluation and assessment of sampling programmes and their adaptation to increasing demands of data when moving to an ecosystem approach to fisheries

management. There is concern that the quality of the data collected for main target species decreases with increasing demands for bycatch and ecosystem related data;

- The organization of a yearly coordination meeting in Brussels, between representative groups of scientists participating in RFMOs scientific meetings, to discuss common issues and difficulties related to the coordination and their participation. It can also include a science-management dialogue component of specific issues such as MSE and other relevant issues.
- Ad-hoc actions regarding the dissemination of relevant RFMOs and SFPAs scientific and technical outcomes to stakeholders.

Scenario 3: Effectively support EU scientists to the EU delegations participating in the work of relevant RFMOs/SFPAs/MEAs.

Objective

Under this scenario, the tenderer is expected to demonstrate how relevant scientists could effectively support the work of the EU in the RFMOs/SFPAs/MEAs listed in section 1.4.3 from. In this sense, and given the variety and complexity of the scientific approaches involved in the work of these organisations, the mobilisation and involvement of a wide range of expertise is required.

The service must cover the following tasks:

- In support of the EU Scientific team, critical review and follow-up on the outcomes of the scientific inter-sessional meetings held in the different RFMOs, RFBs or relevant MEAs to which the EU is a CP.
- Participation in support of the EU Delegation, or as head of the EU Delegation, to the Annual Meetings of the relevant RFMOs and RFBs' scientific bodies or relevant MEAs' advisory bodies.
- Provide advice for the definition of specific scientific work to be supported through EU funding in these organisations and follow up of related projects.
- Participate in the JSC of the SFPAs as rapporteur, contributing to the preparation, discussions, critical review and follow-up of the scientific outcomes and deliberations.
- Permanent input and coordination with DG MARE and other EU scientists designated by DG MARE to provide scientific advice in line with EU policy and priorities on external fisheries.
- Liaison with National Institutes on data gathering and data management issues.
- Inter-sessional support to the Head of Delegation or any other Commission staff designated, including consultation and advice on science-related issues and papers such as draft proposals and other relevant documents in preparation for meetings.
- Occasional participation to meetings related to scientific issues of major interest in the context of EU fisheries beyond EU waters, including environment related meetings.

A tentative calendar and a detailed work programme shall be proposed for the regular Commission and SC meetings over a 3 years period. In addition, it is required to propose also a

tentative calendar and a detailed work programme for other relevant meetings, both within or as part of other organisations/bodies not explicitly mentioned here. Experts shall ensure appropriate coverage of all relevant subjects to be dealt with during the meetings as well as inter-sessionally.

Outputs

An offer of 10 pages maximum (5 000 words) outlining the framework to be put in place to ensure coordination and delivery of the tasks mentioned above must be provided. The offer should cover at least the following:

- A coordination scheme for EU scientists during at 3 calendar years for the participation of the EU in the meetings listed in section 1.4.3. The selection and inclusion of other international instruments must be justified;
- The identification of different subjects and items related to the scientific advice that would be relevant to provide to the European Commission services before, during and after a SC meeting of ICCAT;
- A hypothetical report, including critical analysis to ensure follow-up and identification of outputs implications, of the participation in the SC meeting of ICCAT;
- Identification of potential experts (and their expertise).

1.5.2. Procedure for Specific Contracts

A FWC will be concluded with not more than the three highest-ranked tenderers.

The FWC will be activated by means of signature of individual specific contracts. Depending on the nature, duration and on the price of the work to be performed, payments under each specific contract will be made in accordance with one of the following options:

➤ Option 1:

One single payment

This applies to specific contracts of less than 12 months duration.

➤ Option 2:

More than one payment: (two or three)

This applies to specific contracts of 12 months or more, and will include:

- a pre-financing of 30% may be envisaged in exceptional cases, depending on the subject of the assignment and where a substantial initial investment is required from the contractor for the implementation of the specific contract; based on a risk analysis, a pre-financing guarantee may be requested in this case for specific contracts exceeding EUR 60 000, and/or;
- one or two interim payment(s), depending on the duration and/or the total amount of the specific contract, each of 30% of the total amount of the relevant specific contract.

- that will be conditioned to the acceptance by the Contracting Authority, of the deliverables indicated in the specific contract;
- a balance payment of the total amount of the relevant specific contract that will be conditioned to the acceptance by the Contracting Authority, of the deliverables indicated in the specific contract.

➤ **Request for services**

EASME will order services by sending the contractor at the top of the list a request for services by e-mail. The request will set out the specific terms of reference for the assignment, including the estimated budget, starting date and duration of the assignment, taking into account the deadlines for submission of the offer and the time required by the contractor to mobilise the experts.

➤ **Offer by the contractor**

Within five calendar days from the date when the e-mail requesting the services was sent, the contractor must confirm, by e-mail, its availability to carry out the services requested.

Should the contractor be unavailable or does not accept the order, or should it fail to observe the deadline, EASME shall be entitled to send the request for services to the contractor ranked next on the cascade.

Within twenty calendar days from the date when the e-mail requesting the services was sent, the contractor must provide its detailed offer for the tasks/services requested.

The offer must include: (a) an outline of the method proposed; (b) a work plan; (c) a budget breakdown, including the total price for rendering the services requested (based on the prices for services annexed to the FWC as part of the contractor's tender) and the travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses envisaged in accordance with Article I.5.3 and Article II.22 of the draft FWC; and (d) the CVs of the team of experts proposed.

The price, travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses related to meetings in Brussels with the Contracting Authority shall be integrated in the total price as a fixed price. Travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses for missions related to the implementation of tasks under the specific contracts will be reimbursed separately in accordance with Article I.5.3 and Article II.22 of the draft FWC.

➤ **Task assignment**

EASME will have up to fifteen calendar days to accept or reject the offer. If the offer does not fulfil entirely the requirements of the request for services, EASME will inform the contractor and allow an additional period for the submission of a revised offer. If the revised offer still does not correspond to the request for services EASME may reject the offer. In such a case the contractor will be considered as not able to respond and EASME shall be entitled to place the order with the contractor ranked next in the cascade.

➤ **Specific contract**

If the offer fulfils entirely the requirements of the request for services, EASME will send a Specific contract for signature in line with the procedure described in Article I.4.3 of the draft FWC (Annex 1 to these tender specifications).

1.6. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The expected results will be indicated within each specific contract.

1.7. STARTING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND DURATION

It is expected that the contract is signed approximately in the third quarter of 2019.

The contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party. The duration of the FWC shall not exceed 36 months from that date. The implementation of the FWC shall not start before the contract has been signed or before the specific date specified in the contract.

The parties must sign any specific contract before the FWC expires. The FWC continues to apply to such specific contracts after its expiry. The services relating to such specific contracts must be performed no later than six months after the expiry of the framework contract.

The FWC may be renewed for twelve additional months, depending on the future needs³⁰ and on the budget availability of the Contracting Authority. Renewal will be automatic, unless one of the parties receives formal notification on the contrary at least six months before the end of the ongoing duration.

1.8. VALUE OF THE MARKET

The estimated maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in this call for tenders including all charges and expenses, is EUR 3 million **excluding any renewal**. In case of renewal, the estimated maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in this call for tenders including all charges and expenses, is EUR 4 million including the first period and the renewal.

1.9. PLANNING, OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

The contractor must provide the required deliverables, reports and documents in accordance with the conditions of the draft service contract. When requested in the contract the deliverables, reports and documents will accompany the invoices for payments.

Each report will be submitted in electronic format compatible with Word in English, as well as in paper version when specified in the request for services for the specific contract.

1.9.1. Intermediate outputs and deliverables

In case the specific contract foresees an interim payment, the Contractor must submit an interim report, specifying the completed tasks, difficulties encountered, the consumption of resources and an updated planning in compliance with the provisions of the specific contract.

³⁰ Art. 114.a of the Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, as amended.

The content of the interim report will be specified in the specific contract.

EASME will comment on the document submitted **within 30 calendar days**.

1.9.2. Final outputs and deliverables

Save where the specific contracts provide otherwise, the Contractor must submit a report in English on the services provided in executing the contract. The final report will describe all the work carried out under the specific contract and the results achieved. This report shall be submitted at the end of the period of execution of tasks under each specific contract. It will present an overview of the execution of the specific contract and deliver the scientific advice and/or other services as requested under the specific contract.

The report shall include an Executive Summary in English and French using non-technical language for the general public.

Save where the specific contracts provide otherwise, a draft final report should be submitted to the Contracting Authority 30 calendar days before the end of the specific contract.

The final report must be submitted to EASME at the end of the specific contract.

EASME will comment on the document submitted within **30 calendar days**.

1.9.3. Kick off meetings

A first meeting with the Contracting Authority and the Commission services will be held in Brussels shortly after signature of each specific contract, if specifically indicated in the terms of reference for the assignment. The objective is to discuss and agree on the execution of tasks, on a specific calendar and on the deliverables. The Project manager shall attend the kick-off meeting and provide the Contracting Authority with the minutes of the meeting within 3 working days of the meeting, which will be subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority. In addition, at least one more member of the Contractor's staff shall be present at this meeting.

1.9.4. Progress meetings

Whenever needed with regards to a specific contract, progress meetings will be held between the contractor and EASME / the Commission services to discuss the progress and the quality of the services provided under this contract. These meetings will be held on the premises of EASME in Brussels. The Contracting Authority will decide upon the necessity and the frequency of these meetings on a case-by-case basis, when sending a request for services. The Contractor will draw up minutes of each progress meeting which will be sent to the Contracting Authority within 3 working days of the meeting, and will be subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority.

1.9.5. Final meetings

A final meeting will be held with the Contracting Authority and the Commission services to discuss and assess the main findings of the specific contract implementation. The Project manager shall attend the final meeting and provide the Contracting Authority with the minutes of the meeting within 3 working days of the meeting, which will be subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority. In addition, at least one more member of the Contractor's staff shall be present at this meeting.

1.10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The intellectual property rights related to the services/studies are foreseen in clauses **I.10, I.13, and II.13** of the service contract.

A list of all pre-existing rights to the results or parts of the results or a declaration stating that there are no such will be required from the Contractor with the interim and final deliverables.

If the results are not fully created for the purpose of the contract this should be clearly pointed out in the tender. Information should be provided about the scope of pre-existing materials, their source and when and how the rights to these materials have been or will be acquired.

Additionally, according to article II.13.5, the Contractor warrants that it possesses rights to transfer to the European Commission pre-existing rights and has fulfilled all its responsibilities to the relevant rights holders.

1.10.1. Plagiarism in the tender

In the tender all quotations or information originating from other sources and to which third parties may claim rights have to be clearly marked (source publication including date and place, creator, number, full title, etc.) in a way allowing easy identification.

2. CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE DELIVERABLES

The Contractor must deliver the report, linked to a specific contract, as indicated below.

The final report shall include in a consolidated form all the information requested for the interim reports.

2.1. CONTENT

2.1.1. Final report

The final report must include:

- ✓ an abstract of no more than 200 words and a publishable executive summary of maximum 5 pages, both in English and French;
- ✓ a text of no more than 150 pages (excluding Annexes), unless stated otherwise in the specific contract. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to reject any report exceeding the indicated length or reports that do not meet high quality standards for English, or any other editorial aspects (e.g. clarity in structure, organization, misspellings, etc.). The Contracting Authority also reserves the right to request an additional synthesis report, which length would be defined in the specific contracts;
- ✓ specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- ✓ the following disclaimer:

"The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the EASME or of the Commission. Neither EASME nor the Commission can guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither

EASME, nor the Commission or any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein."

2.1.2. Publishable executive summary

The publishable executive summary must be provided in both in English and French and must include:

- ✓ specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- ✓ the following disclaimer:

"The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the EASME or of the Commission. Neither EASME nor the Commission can guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither EASME, nor the Commission or any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein."

2.1.3. Requirements for publication on Internet

EASME is committed to making online information as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities, and those not having the latest technologies. EASME supports the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the W3C.

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm

For the publishable versions of the study, abstract and executive summary, the contractor must respect the W3C guidelines for accessible pdf documents as provided at: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>.

2.1.4. Graphic requirements

The contractor must deliver the study and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the corporate visual identity of the European Commission, by applying the graphic rules set out in the European Commission's Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The graphic rules, the Manual and further information are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm

A simple Word template will be provided to the contractor after contract signature. The contractor must fill in the cover page in accordance with the instructions provided in the template. The use of templates for studies is exclusive to European Commission's contractors. No template will be provided to tenderers while preparing their tenders.

3. INFORMATION ON TENDERING

3.1. PARTICIPATION

Participation in this procurement procedure is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.³¹

States covered by the plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement concluded within the World Trade Organisation are not included in this call for tenders as the Executive Agencies are not signatories of the Agreement.

In the case of a joint tender (see Section 3.4), each member of the group must have access to this procurement procedure.



For British candidates or tenderers:

Please be aware that after the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the rules of access to EU procurement procedures of economic operators established in third countries will apply to candidates or tenderers from the UK depending on the outcome of the negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force candidates or tenderers from the UK could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

3.2. CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS

The tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract which specifies the rights and obligations of the contractor, particularly those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

3.3. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW

The tender must comply with applicable environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU³².

Information about the environmental policy of EASME is provided in Annex 9 to these specifications.

31 Third countries with a special agreement in the field of public procurement that have been given access to procurement procedures of the Union institutions, agencies and bodies regardless of the value of the purchase are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway and Liechtenstein and Serbia.

32 Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

3.4. JOINT TENDERS

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group of economic operators (natural or legal persons). Joint tenders may include subcontractors in addition to the members of the group.

In case of joint tender, all members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the Contracting Authority for the performance of the contract as a whole, i.e. both financial and operational liability. Nevertheless, tenderers must designate one of the economic operators as a single point of contact ("the leader") for the Contracting Authority for administrative and financial aspects as well as operational management of the contract.

After the award, the Contracting Authority will sign the contract either with all members of the group, or with the leader on behalf of all members of the group, authorised by the other members via powers of attorney.

3.5. SUB-CONTRACTING

Subcontracting is the situation where a contract has been or is to be established between the contracting authority and a contractor/tenderer only and where the contractor or tenderer, in order to carry out that contract, enters into legal commitments with other entities for performing parts of the contract. The contracting authority has no direct legal commitment with the subcontractor(s). Examples of subcontractors include contractors' suppliers or free-lance experts. In practice, any third party involved in the contract implementation which has no legal link with the contracting authority but with the contractor will be considered as subcontractor (e.g. any other company which does not participate in the contract execution but provides financial capacity).

Subcontracting is permitted but the contractor will retain full liability towards the contracting authority for performance of the contract as a whole. The rules of access to EU public procurement (Section 3.1) do not apply to subcontractors.

Tenderers are required to identify all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 20% or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

3.6. COSTS

Tenderers themselves will bear the costs of drawing up their tenders and EASME will not be liable to pay any compensation if a tender is rejected or if it decides not to select any tender.

3.7. CONTENT OF THE TENDER

The tenders must have the following structure:

- Part A: Identification of the tenderer (see Section 3.8)
- Part B: Non-exclusion (see Section 4.2)
- Part C: Selection (see Section 4.3)
- Part D: Technical offer (including Annex 6)

The technical offer must cover all minimum requirements and tasks required in the tender specifications and provide all the information needed to apply the award criteria. Offers deviating from the requirements or not covering all minimum requirements may be

rejected on the basis of non-compliance with the tender specifications and will not be evaluated.

The technical offer should include at least the following sections:

- Description of the policy context

Tenderers are requested to provide an overview of their understanding of the key issues, trends and challenges in scientific advice for the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy. This should enable the Contracting Authority to evaluate the tenders with respect to award Criterion 1 in Section 4.4.

- Work Package Scenarios

Tenderers are asked to make a specific technical proposal for each of the scenarios of the work packages under Section 1.6.1.

The technical proposals for each scenario must:

- Describe in detail the approach, the stages and the working methods that the tenderer intends to use to carry out all of the work requested in the work package scenarios case study, specifying which parts will be subcontracted;
- For each stage, specify the composition of the project team and the assigned roles of the staff which are intended to be put into place, specifying the number of units (person/day) per category of staff;
- Propose a calendar setting out the time considered necessary for each stage and taking into account the time needed for interacting with the Contracting Authority and the various steps of the validation process;

The scenarios have been drawn up solely for the purposes of the award process for this contract. They are entirely fictitious and cannot, in any way, be regarded as an indication of the priorities and the exact nature of future assignments. The technical proposals for each scenario must enable the Contracting Authority to evaluate the tenders with respect to Award Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Section 4.4, and to check that the technical description has been correctly interpreted by the tenderer.

- Working method and organisation for the performance of specific contracts

Tenderers should provide a comprehensive plan showing how they intend to develop and organise the work in carrying out the specific contracts in practice. This should enable the Contracting Authority to evaluate the tenders with respect to Award Criterion 3 in Section 4.4.

- Quality assurance and quality control, risk assessment and mitigation measures

Tenderers should provide information about the way they intend to ensure the quality of the deliverables and reports. This should enable the Contracting Authority to evaluate the tenders with respect to Award Criterion 4 in Section 4.4.

➤ Part E: Financial offer (Annex 7)

The price for the tender must be quoted in euro. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate fluctuations. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.

Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the European Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union. The amount of VAT may be shown separately.

The tenderers must fill in the Financial Offer form in Annex 7. This form consists of two tables:

- Table A for the unit prices ("A – Cost categories"). The unit prices quoted by the tenderer in Table A of the Financial Offer form will be the binding applicable rates under the FWC, if awarded.
- Table B with a hypothesis of volume – to be used for the financial evaluation of the tenders ("B - Volume hypothesis).

Tenderers should apply the unit prices as quoted in Table A to the volumes indicated in Table B, so as to get a total amount for the total volume. This total amount will be subject to evaluation as per section 4.5 of these tender specifications.

The volumes specified in Table B are for evaluation purposes only and do not represent any indication or commitment from the Commission as to the actual volume of services which could be ordered under specific contracts.

Each item of the tables must be filled in with a price. **The tender form may not be altered in any way (no modification, comments or additional elements allowed). Incomplete or altered tables which prevent full examination and comparison of a tender can lead to elimination.**

The price for the tender must be quoted in euro. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate movements. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.

Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the European Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union. The amount of VAT may be shown separately.

The quoted price must be a fixed amount which includes all charges (except travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses related to the implementation of tasks (see next paragraph below). The prices quoted will be applicable to the specific contracts implementing the FWC.

The travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed for missions related to the implementation of the tasks under the specific contracts. No travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed for meetings in Brussels with the Contracting Authority as specified under sections 1.5.2 of the Tender Specifications.

Prices shall be fixed and not subject to revision for the first year of performance of the contract. After that period, prices may be revised according to the terms laid down in the draft FWC in Annex 1.

3.8. IDENTIFICATION OF THE TENDERER

The tender must include a cover letter (letter of submission of tender - Annex 2) presenting the name of the tenderer (including all entities in case of joint offer) and identified subcontractors if applicable, and the name of the single point of contact (leader) in relation to this procedure.

In case of joint tender, the cover letter must be signed either by an authorised representative for each member, or by the leader authorised by the other members with powers of attorney (Annex 4). The signed powers of attorney must be included in the tender as well. Subcontractors that are identified in the tender must provide a letter of intent (Annex 5) signed by an authorised representative stating their willingness to provide the services presented in the tender and in line with the present tender specifications.

The tenderer (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) must declare whether it is a Small or Medium Size Enterprise in accordance with Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC³³. This information is used for statistical purposes only.

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the Participant Register and ask for supporting documents with respect to the legal existence and status. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be asked so as to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria and/or to ensure that the entity is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in this call for tenders.

4. EVALUATION AND AWARD

4.1. EVALUATION STEPS

The evaluation is based solely on the information provided in the submitted tender. It involves the following:

- ✓ Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria
- ✓ Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria
- ✓ Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements set out in these tender specifications
- ✓ Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria

The Contracting Authority may reject abnormally low tenders, in particular if it established that the tenderer or a subcontractor does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law.

The Contracting Authority will assess these criteria in no particular order. The successful tenderer must pass all criteria to be awarded the contract.

³³ OJ L 124/36, 20.5.2003

4.2. VERIFICATION OF NON-EXCLUSION

All tenderers must provide a declaration on honour (Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed in that declaration on honour.

In case of joint tender, each member of the group must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

In case of subcontracting, all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 20 % or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

The contracting authority reserves the right to verify whether the successful tenderer is in one of the situations of exclusion by requiring the supporting documents listed in the declaration of honour.

The successful tenderer must provide the documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the declaration on honour before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the contracting authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 20 % or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

The obligation to submit supporting evidence does not apply to international organisations.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

4.3. SELECTION CRITERIA

Tenderers must prove their legal, economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to carry out the work subject to this procurement procedure.

The tenderer may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the Contracting Authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

The tender must include the proportion of the contract that the tenderer intends to subcontract.

4.3.1. Declaration and evidence

The tenderers (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide the declaration on honour (see Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they fulfil the selection criteria applicable to them. In case of joint tender or subcontracting, the criteria

applicable to the tenderer as a whole will be verified by combining the various declarations for a consolidated assessment.

This declaration is part of the declaration used for exclusion criteria (see Section 4.2) so only one declaration covering both aspects should be provided by each concerned entity.

The Contracting Authority will **evaluate selection criteria on the basis of the declarations on honour (Annex 3) and the information included in the tables in Annex 2.1 and Annex 2.2, fully completed** and the evidence where requested. Nevertheless, it **reserves the right to require (additional) evidence** of the legal and regulatory, financial and economic and technical and professional capacity of the tenderers **at any time during the procurement procedure and contract performance**. In such case the tenderer must provide the requested evidence without delay. The Contracting Authority may reject the tender if the requested evidence is not provided in due time.

After contract award, the successful tenderer will be required to provide the necessary evidence before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the Contracting Authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge.

4.3.2. Legal and regulatory capacity

Not Applicable.

4.3.3. Economic and financial capacity criteria

The tenderer must have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform this contract until its end. In order to prove its capacity, the tenderer must comply with the following criterion:

Its average annual turnover for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed³⁴ shall amount to at least EUR 2 million; this criterion applies to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacity of all members of a group in case of a joint tender and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil this criterion.

To this effect, the following should be provided with the tender in eSubmission from all tenderers and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the combined capacity:

- ✓ **Statement of Turnover in accordance with Annex 2.1** of these tender specifications completed with the information requested.

³⁴ In the case of joint tender or identified sub-contractors, the turnover must be provided for the same two years for all the partners/subcontractors.

For tenderers (including all members of the group) except subcontractors:

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the *Participant Register* and ask for supporting documents with respect to their economic and financial capacity. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be asked so as to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria.

For subcontractors:

Subcontractors contributing to the combined financial and economic capacity of tenderers should submit with the tender the following documents in *eSubmission*:

- ✓ Copy of the Profit and Loss accounts for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed from each concerned legal entity;

Failing that,

- ✓ Appropriate statements from banks;

Or

- ✓ Evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance.

If, for some exceptional reason which the Contracting Authority considers justified, a tenderer is unable to provide one or other of the above documents, it may prove its economic and financial capacity by any other document which the Contracting Authority considers appropriate. In any case, the Contracting Authority must at least be notified of the exceptional reason and its justification. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to request any other document enabling it to verify the tenderer's economic and financial capacity.

4.3.4. Technical and professional capacity criteria and evidence

Tenders must provide in their tender the table in Annex 2.2 of these Tender Specifications, exhaustively completed with all the necessary information.

The evidence mentioned below must be provided only on request, except evidences B1, B2, B3, B4 (CVs) and B5 that should be part of the submitted offer.

A. Criteria relating to tenderers:

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all members of the group and identified subcontractors) must comply with the criteria listed below.

The project references indicated below consist in a list of relevant research projects or services provided in the past 10 years, with the sums, dates and clients, public or private, accompanied by statements issued by the clients. The tenderer shall clearly show the correspondence between the fields indicated under Criteria A1 to A4 and the projects/services on the list. One research project or service may cover more than one field under Criteria A1 to A4.

Criteria	Evidence
<p>✓ <i>Criterion A1: The tenderer must prove experience in the field of scientific advice for fisheries management for tuna and tuna like species, and small pelagic and demersal species in the context of the international dimension and external EU fisheries policy. Specifically, the tenderer must prove experience in the fields of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Socio-economic analysis for fisheries;</i> - <i>Management and development of scientific fisheries surveys or trials at sea;</i> - <i>Impact of fisheries activities on marine biological resources and ecosystems;</i> - <i>Fisheries and ecosystem data sourcing, processing, modelling and analysis;</i> - <i>Fisheries and fishing gears technology;</i> - <i>International project management and scientific event organisations;</i> - <i>Stakeholder outreach and engagement (particularly in the context of RFMOs and SFPAs).</i> 	<p>✓ Evidence A1: the tenderer must provide references for at least 5 completed research projects or services, of at least 1 year duration, carried out and coordinated during the last 10 years, altogether showing experience in all the indicated fields, and with a minimum overall budget for each project or service of € 50 000.</p> <p>The list of research projects or services should include a summary of the project (maximum ½ A4 page), starting date, duration, budget and financing source or client (indicating public or private).</p>
<p>✓ <i>Criterion A2: The tenderer must prove capacity to work in two languages (English and French).</i></p>	<p>✓ Evidence A2: the tenderer must provide references for 2 studies/reports delivered through projects or services within the last 10 years, showing the required language knowledge.</p>
<p>✓ <i>Criterion A3: The tenderer must also demonstrate disposal of or access to stocks and fisheries data as well as access to technical infrastructure necessary to undertake the defined tasks under this tender (e.g. computer hardware capable of performing statistical and mathematical modelling, requiring intense computational capacity such as the one necessary for Management Strategy Evaluation.)</i></p>	<p>✓ Evidence A3: Description of facilities or databases available to or developed by the tenderer and their potential use for the purposes of this framework contract also with respect to computational capacity to develop Management Strategy Evaluation.</p>

B. Criteria relating to the team delivering the service:

The team delivering the service should include, as a minimum, the following profiles.

Evidence will consist of the CVs of the team responsible to deliver the service. Each CV should indicate the intended function in the delivery of the service.

A list or table identifying the members of the team and describing their roles, responsibilities and expertise regarding RFMOs and SFPAs, in particular regarding the fields indicated under

Criteria B1 to B5, shall be provided indicating clearly the correspondence between the fields and the provided CVs.

Criteria	Evidence
✓ <i>B1 - Project Manager: At least 10 years' experience in project management, including overseeing project delivery, quality control of delivered service, client orientation and conflict resolution experience in project of a similar size (at least € 500 000).</i>	✓ Evidence B1 – CV with a list of relevant projects managed.
✓ <i>B2 - Fisheries and ecosystem scientists: At least 5 members of the team shall have a University education degree relevant for the objectives of the FWC (including fields such as: marine species biology, fisheries science, fisheries management, marine science, environmental science, oceanography, mathematics, statistics, fisheries modelling or related), and at least 2 years of professional experience in marine fisheries and ecosystem research including the following fields:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Management Strategy Evaluation</i> - <i>Stock assessment for data limited stocks and using highly structured models such as MULTIFAN CL and SS3 (see Section 1.4.2)</i> - <i>Fisheries models ensemble</i> - <i>Data collection in the context of RFMOs and SFPAs</i> - <i>Integration of environmental concerns into fisheries management</i> 	✓ Evidence B2 – CV with list of relevant projects managed and relevant scientific publications.
✓ <i>B3 - Fisheries economist: At least one member of the team shall have a higher education degree in economy or a related field and at least five years professional experience in the field of fisheries socio-economy.</i>	✓ Evidence B3 – CV
✓ <i>B4 - Policy advisors: At least two members of the team shall have proven expertise of at least 5 years in policy advice on management strategies and options for management measures relating to the Common Fisheries Policy, for decision-makers and stakeholder audiences.</i>	✓ Evidence B4 – CV
✓ <i>B5 - Language: at least half of the members of the team should be proficient users level C2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages³⁵) in English and at least one of the members of the team should be proficient user level C2 in French.</i>	✓ Evidence B5 – A language certificate, mother tongue or references to publications delivered in English to the required level in the last three years.

³⁵ Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR); www.coe.int/lang-CEFR

4.4. AWARD CRITERIA

The contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender, according to the 'best price-quality ratio' award method. The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

Tenders that receive less than 60% of the maximum possible mark for the whole quality evaluation or less than 50 % for one of the quality criteria will be eliminated and their final score will not be calculated. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked.

N°	Award Criteria	Weighting
1	<p><i>Understanding of the policy context</i></p> <p><i>This criterion assesses the understanding of the key issues, trends and challenges in scientific advice for the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy. It assesses whether the tenderer is aware of the current context and the general aim of the scientific advice for fisheries management, the technical developments and challenges and of the EU policy. It will also look at whether the tenderer links adequately the scenarios described in Section 1.4.2 to this background. The assessment will be based on both the description of the context and on the scenarios.</i></p>	20
2	<p><i>Quality of the tender for the scenarios</i></p> <p>This criterion will assess the quality of the proposed services under the three scenarios and how the tenderer proposes to organise the work and the resources in the framework of the four scenarios described in Section 1.5.</p> <p>The points will be allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Scenario 1a, on the stocks covered by RFMOs: maximum 10 points o Scenario 1b, on the stocks covered by RFMOs: maximum 8 points o Scenario 2, on the stocks covered by SFPAs: maximum 9 points o Scenario 3, on the Support to the European Commission: maximum 8 points 	35
3	<p><i>Working method and organisation for the performance of specific contracts</i></p> <p><i>This criterion will assess how the roles and responsibilities of the proposed team and of the economic operators (in case of joint tenders, including subcontractors if applicable) are organised and distributed to carry out specific contracts in practice. The work packages described in Section 1.4.2 can be used to illustrate the proposed working method and how coordination will be ensured. This criterion will also assess the scheme proposed for the interactions with the Contracting Authority, the stakeholders, the national authorities and bodies.</i></p>	25
4	<p><i>Quality assurance and quality control, risk assessment and mitigation measures during the implementation of specific contracts</i></p>	20

	<i>This criterion will assess the quality control system proposed by the tender, concerning the technical quality of the deliverables, the language quality check in particular of final reports, the validation of study findings and continuity of the service in case of absence of specific members of the team. The tender should identify critical steps and possible risks that could limit the successful delivery of the requested services. The quality system must be detailed in the tender and specific to the tasks described in the work packages of Section 1.4.2. A generic quality system will result in a low score.</i>	
Total number of points		100

4.5. RANKING OF TENDERS

The contracts will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tenders, i.e. the tenders offering the best price-quality ratio determined in accordance with the formula below. A weight of 70% / 30% is given to quality and price³⁶.

score for tender X	=	$\frac{\text{cheapest price}}{\text{price of tender X}}$	*	100	*	price weighting (30 %)	+	total quality score (out of 100) for all award criteria of tender X	*	quality criteria weighting (70 %)
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The tenders with the highest scores ranked first, second and third after applying the formula will be awarded the contracts.

4.6. INFORMATION TO TENDERERS ON THE FINAL EVALUATION

EASME will inform tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or to recommence the procedure.

EASME will inform all rejected tenderers of the reasons for their rejection and all tenderers submitting an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the selected tender and the name of the successful tenderer.

However, certain information may be withheld where its release would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

5. ANNEXES

The following documents are annexed to these specifications and form an integral part of them:

Annex 1: Draft contract (for information)

Annex 2: Letter of submission of tender (to be filled in and signed by the tenderer)

- Annex 2.1. – Statement of turnover
- Annex 2.2. – Technical capacity

³⁶ The price used for the ranking of the tenders is the price quoted under "Table B – Volume hypothesis" in Annex 7 Price and breakdown of costs.

Annex 3: Declaration on honour (exclusion and selection criteria)

Annex 4: Power of attorney

Annex 5: Letter of intent for sub-contractors

Annex 6: Technical tender form

Annex 7: Financial offer (price and breakdown of costs)

Annex 8: Checklist for Submission

Annex 9: EASME's Environmental Policy