

Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance:

Background

The Mission of the Tuvalu Fisheries Department (TFD), as defined in its new Corporate Plan 2023-25, is to increase the contribution of Fisheries to socio-economic development and quality of life. The objective of the TFD Corporate Plan relevant to this consultancy is: 'Objective 5: Increase the value of access fishing licences in Tuvalu waters.' The specific activity identified is to 'develop systems needed for export of fisheries products from Tuvalu flagged fishing vessels', which make an important contribution to access fee revenue.

A detailed roadmap for the development of the CA has been prepared by an international consultant. The first steps in this roadmap have been taken: Cabinet approval of TFD as the Competent Authority; approval of new Food Safety (Export of Fishery Products) Regulations; and training of one staff member at the FFA Fish Inspectors' Training Course. What is now required is an experienced person to lead the development of the systems and procedures needed for the CA to perform its functions. Note that Tuvalu does not have any landing sites or factories processing fish for export – the role of the CA will be only to list approved freezer vessels, with a current fleet of six tuna purse seiners.

The Tuvalu Fisheries Support Programme Phase 2 (TFSP2), which is funded by New Zealand, is supporting the implementation of TFD's Corporate Plans, and is providing funding for this appointment. Additional funding for equipment, international TA and operational costs will become available from the World Bank PROPER project in late 2023. It is expected that the Tuvalu Government will create a position to work as counterpart to the Consultant

Objective:

The objective of the consultancy is to lead the development of Tuvalu's sanitary Competent Authority to implement food safety controls that meet EU requirements.

Scope of work:

The Consultant will be expected to undertake the following main tasks:

- Review and develop the Tuvalu CA Action Plan and then develop a monthly activity schedule for at least 12 months.
- Lead implementation of the Action Plan for the introduction of official controls for the export of fishery products.
- Identify and procure the required accredited laboratory services
- Identify physical infrastructure requirements for provision of a sample management facility (for sample reception, preparation, and storage)
- Specify requirements for procurement of a) equipment for inspectors and b) for initial laboratory provision for sample management.
- Support the preparation of an inspection and control manual, which will also provide a foundation for the training of inspectors.
- Develop a Staff training plan covering Fishing Technologies and types of vessels.
- Support the preparation of annual plans and reports
- Support the introduction of inspection and sampling activities
- Function as the CA team leader leading the CA operation on a daily basis.

- Provide technical guidance and advise to Tuvalu Fisheries on EU market Access supply chains and eligibility
- Prepare Tuvalu CA for EU listing
- Undertake communications with CAs in export markets and the completion of the EU's Preliminary Questionnaire
- To work closely with FFA market Access team
- Provide mentoring and training for TFD Fish Inspectors and a national counterpart (when appointed)
- Carry out any other duties that may be required to achieve the objective of the assignment.

Timing and delivery

This is a long-term assignment with an initial contract of one year. Subject to performance and available funding, further contracts may be offered. The successful applicant will be expected to start work around July 2023.

Requirements (qualifications and experience)

Candidates will be assessed against the following criteria by the senior management committee of the TFD:

- A degree or diploma in food science, veterinary science, public health or microbiology;
- Experience of the Fisheries sector; Quality control; Food safety inspection and certification; Managing contracts for provision of laboratory testing services;
- At least 3 years' experience of working in the Competent Authority of a Pacific Island country with approval to export fishery products to the EU;
- Value for money.

Reporting:

The consultant will provide a brief report at the end of each month, summarizing progress with the establishment of the CA; any problems or issues encountered; and a proposed way to address these.

A final report will be submitted in the last month of the assignment explaining progress and making recommendations for any further work or inputs required.

Payment schedule:

The consultant will normally be paid monthly in arrears and airfares to take up the assignment reimbursed; however air ticket(s) and a mobilization grant to cover other expenses of re-location to Tuvalu may be paid by the Project in advance if this is included in the proposed cost estimate.