



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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14th MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

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ASSESSMENT OF BYCATCH IN GLOBAL FISHERIES

(Introductory note prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Strategy Implementation Plan 2006-2011 for the Scientific Council, adopted by the Scientific Council at its 13th Meeting (Nairobi, November 2005), provides for a series of reviews of the impact of various threats on migratory species, with a view to identifying priority issues to be addressed through CMS. One of these reviews should concern the effects of by-catch on migratory species, particularly of marine mammals, large marine fish, marine turtles and albatrosses/petrels to identify priority issues to be addressed through CMS.
2. The attached draft specifications of requirement for an assessment of bycatch of migratory species in global fisheries has been prepared by Mr. Barry Baker, Conference-appointed councillor for bycatch, for review and finalization by the 14th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.

SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS (DRAFT)

Assessment of Bycatch in Global Fisheries

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENT

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Carry out a comprehensive review of all global commercial and artisanal fisheries to assess the available information on the bycatch of seabirds, marine turtles, sharks and marine mammals, under the stewardship of the CMS Conference-appointed Scientific Councillor for by-catch.

For each fishery, examine recent fishing effort and bycatch information and evaluate the level of impact on non-target species, particularly CMS listed species.

Prepare a report that identifies the importance of bycatch as a threat to migratory species and provides an overview of priority fisheries, regions and species which will benefit from international action through the CMS

ISSUES AND SCOPE

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an intergovernmental environment treaty which aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian species over the whole of their migratory range. To achieve this the Convention provides a framework for enhancing the conservation status of migratory species through the cooperative efforts of the range states of those species. There are currently 101 Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Migratory species are considered important as they can act as linkages between ecosystems, and therefore can be indicators of ecological change. CMS seeks to conserve threatened migratory species by endeavouring to protect habitats, remove obstacles that hinder migration, and lessen the impact of identified threats.

Bycatch is recognised by CMS as a major threat to marine migratory species and is the subject of Resolutions 6.2 and 8.14, and Recommendation 7.2. It is a threat that extends throughout all ocean basins of the world, and affects many species listed under CMS – including cetaceans, seabirds, marine turtles and sharks. To date, research and implementation of bycatch mitigation has largely been conducted on a fishery-by-fishery basis, with advice given on a species by species basis rather than a “whole-of-fishery” perspective.

Although there is significant conservation and bycatch mitigation action occurring at the national, fishery or species-specific level, links between these actions at the international level are often poor, leading to weakening of international effort. To date, despite many projects and activities within CMS agreements and other organizations/instruments, there is insufficient overall progress from these efforts, and bycatch remains a critical threat to many migratory species.

Knowledge of where and when bycatch occurs, and the scale that it is occurring, are critical information gaps that hinder progress in minimising the impacts of this threat. At the 13th meeting of the CMS Scientific and the ensuing 8th Conference of Parties, it was agreed that there is a need for a global assessment of the migratory taxa affected, as a precursor to stimulating the development and promulgation of solutions which are effective for all taxonomic groups, rather than one at a time as currently occurs. This project seeks to take forward this issues, which in turn will help CMS, its subsidiary daughter agreements, their party states and others play a more active part in addressing the threats to migratory species from bycatch.

USES AND USERS OF THE RESULTS

The results will lead to the collection of important data that should help set policy and priorities for CMS and its Parties. The results will also be used by CMS as a contribution to global efforts to help tackle the adverse effects of bycatch. The findings will be made available to CMS, its regional agreements, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, fishery managers, fishers, the NGO community, the scientific community and others.

DETAILED REQUIREMENTS

Carry out a comprehensive review of all global fisheries to assess the available information on the bycatch of seabirds, marine turtles, sharks and marine mammals, under the stewardship of the CMS Conference-appointed Scientific Councillor for bycatch. While there is a general interest in all migratory species, of particular concern are species listed on the CMS appendices, many of which are threatened with extinction.

For each fishery:

- describe the fishery, principal target species and the gear types employed;
- describe the level of annual fishing effort over the last 5 years;
- assess the level of independent observer coverage provided for the fishery, if any;
- assess the level of knowledge of bycatch of seabirds, turtles, sharks and marine mammals, together with an indication of any trend in bycatch;
- provide information on the use of bycatch mitigation strategies to mitigate the incidental take of non-target species; and

Prepare a report that identifies the importance of bycatch as a threat to migratory species and provides an overview of priority fisheries, regions and species which will benefit from international action through the CMS. The report and its recommendations must receive the endorsement of the Convention on Migratory Species.

OUTPUTS

It is the intention of CMS to publish the results of the work through one or more routes.

A final report covering the policy and scientific background to the work, the methodologies employed, results, conclusions and recommendations suitable for

publication on the Internet. The report will contain a non-technical executive summary of not more than three pages and should be written in Plain English containing headline results and recommendations. If appropriate, papers for referred scientific journals may also be prepared.

In addition, the contractor shall provide an **Executive Summary** of no more than two A4-sized pages.

The approved final report suitable for publication must be provided by the contract end date.

CMS may occasionally request summaries of interim results during the contract, which may be required in an electronic format to be agreed.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The final report will be subject to independent peer review and the contractor will be expected to respond in detail to reviewers comments and amend the final report as appropriate.

MANAGEMENT

The Contract will be managed in accordance with the CMS's 'Standard Terms and Conditions for Research and Development Contracts'.

The contractor will be managed by the CMS Scientific Officer (in consultation with the Conference Appointed Scientific Councillor on Bycatch). The CMS Scientific Officer will act as Contract Manager responsible for the day to day management of the contract. The contractor will appoint a project manager who will act as the principal point of contact.

Before the end of the contract, the contractor shall attend a meeting with CMS to discuss the management and performance of the contract with a view to informing each other of any strengths and weaknesses exposed.

TIMING

The contract will be expected to last approximately 12 months from the date of award of a contract. The anticipated start date is stated in the invitation to tender letter.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MILESTONES

The scope of this project is ambitious, and the budget amount may not be sufficient to complete the work as envisaged. Tenderers are invited to propose a work programme designed to meet the above objectives, requirements and timetable. Tenders should include a time schedule for the work that identifies the main tasks and key milestones that will be used to monitor progress. If necessary, proposals to reduce the scope of the work to fit the project budget (EU 30,000) will be considered.

PROJECT TEAM (INCLUDING SUB CONTRACTORS)

Details of the project team should be supplied indicating the experience of the individuals. The organisation of the project team should be linked to the work programme, indicating the grade of staff and number of days allocated to specific work areas.

ELECTRONIC SECURITY

Electronic media of any type or format supplied to CMS by the Contractor must be checked for viruses before shipment. The Contractor must provide details of the computer virus detection and virus eradication software (or hardware) that is used to prevent infection and the frequency at which it is updated.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Tenders will be assessed against the criteria set out below. It is worthwhile trying to assess your own proposal against these criteria before you submit it. It is important to realise that the Panel will score proposals against each of these criteria. For example, if your proposal is of high quality, but does not provide an adequate description of how the results will be transmitted to the appropriate audience, it will probably be unsuccessful.

The Criteria are:

Quality of proposal

- relevance to specified requirements
- scientific merit
- clear work plan with realistic testable milestones
- clear deliverables
- probability of success

Details of contractor

- expertise, infrastructure
- project planning and management
- past experience with contractor

Cost

- reasonable & competitive costs
- co-funders