

LIST OF TECHNICAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE CONTRACTING OF OF A CONSULTANCY AND ANALYSIS SERVICE FOR THE REDUCTION OF INCIDENTAL CATCH AND POST-RELEASE MORTALITY OF MARINE FAUNA AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN THE EAST CENTRAL ATLANTIC IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT 'REDUCING BYCATCH OF THREATENED MEGAFUNA IN THE EAST CENTRAL ATLANTIC' (REDUCE) FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

FILE: 2024/152

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SERVICE

This document outlines the technical specifications governing the procurement process for a consultancy and analysis service for the reduction of bycatch and post-release mortality of marine fauna and the sustainable fisheries management in the eastern central Atlantic Ocean in the development of the project: **Reducing project bycatch of threatened megafauna in the East Central Atlantic (REDUCE)** from the University of Barcelona.

The purpose of this tender is to contract a consultancy and analysis service for the reduction of bycatch and post-release mortality of marine fauna and the sustainable fisheries management in the eastern central Atlantic Ocean, under Work Package 7 of the REDUCE project at the Universitat de Barcelona.

The contractin of this service is essential. It responds to the need to achieve the research objectives of one of the Work Packages of the project "Reducing bycatch of threatened megafauna in the East Central Atlantic" (REDUCE)) directed by Jacob González-Solís Bou, Professor of the Department of Evolutionary Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences of the Universitat de Barcelona. The project, with grant agreement 101135583, funded by the European Commission HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01, aims to use an interdisciplinary scientific approach and unify the efforts of stakeholders to reduce the by-catch of marine fauna and promote sustainable fisheries management in the eastern central Atlantic Ocean.

The project is structured into 9 different Work Packages (WP hereinafter). The WP7 of the REDUCE project is a WP extended throughout the project's duration until December 2028. It explicitly aims to work on reducing incidental capture and post-release mortality, thus requiring the active and voluntary participation of the fishing industry sector. Without this participation, not only this WP but the entire project could be in doubt. The mitigation strategy for these risks includes ensuring industry collaboration through the hiring of a consulting service to act as a negotiator and primary point of contact. This consulting service must be highly familiar with the fishing sector, the types of fisheries and gear used, the threatened, protected, and endangered marine species subject to incidental capture, and above all, it must be knowledgeable about the geographical scope in which these incidents are produced. (Eastern Central Atlantic Ocean).

Given the University of Barcelona's limitations in human resources and specialized expertise to fulfil the requirements described above, and considering the impracticality of expanding existing resources, it is proposed to engage an external company to provide these services.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE

The awarded company will have to develop the service to support the research team of the REDUCE project in order to achieve and meet the objectives of WP7 of the REDUCE project. Specifically, the contracted service will consist of:

Task 7.1: The State of bycatch reduction in European Union Distance Water Fleet

- Review literature to evaluate current and ongoing bycatch initiatives.
- Produce a "state of bycatch mitigation" – spatio-temporal, legal and process assessment of bycatch requirements, observer coverage, data availability and published impacts of mitigation measures for each taxon and gear group.
- Supervise the elaboration of REDUCE project deliverable D7.1 - Bycatch reduction assessment. An assessment of bycatch rates for all taxa and gears, in relation to use and effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Task 7.2: Handling and safe-release guidelines for all gear and taxon combinations

- Supervise and coordinate the actions conducted in task 7.2 with BirdLife International - Africa such as:
 - Collate and package handling and safe-release guidelines for all fishing gear and taxon combinations.
 - Secure in-country, local ground support for observer/researcher deployments aboard EU or African vessels to or from African ports.
 - Facilitate dialogue and results-sharing interactions with relevant national authorities and regional bodies in W Africa.
 - Oversee and coordinate land-based training and onboard dissemination of Best Practice advice to fleets including checklists of equipment to handle and safely release animals.

Task 7.3: Reduction of bycatch in fishing gear.

- Undertake sectoral consultations to baseline multiple aspects of Bycatch rates & current mitigation
- Electronic Monitoring experiences amongst target fleets
- Broker industry agreements for collaborative onboard mitigation and Electronic Monitoring work
- Develop research/demonstration objectives and protocols for each monitoring voyage

- Explore/support initiation of market-based incentive schemes with participating vessel owners
- Collaborate with WPs 3-4 to source, train, resource & deploy observers and/or researchers to trial/demo bycatch mitigation
- Support the development of guidelines for using camera-based Electronic Monitoring to collect data on bycatch mitigation
- Oversee onboard deployments, data gathering and analysis, per monitoring voyage and iteratively
- Be responsible for the selection, remuneration, and support of the deployment of observers/researchers on board.
- Undertake a retrospective analysis of purse seine catch/bycatch data and Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices soak & set time
- Disseminate Best Practice advice

Task 7.4: Support analyses

- Support analyses from data obtained in WP5 - Spatial distribution, habitat modelling and bycatch risk and WP6 – Impacts on population abundance and viability
- Develop scientific papers and policy briefs for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), other regional bodies & national administrations that, using findings from REDUCE project
- Describe pattern and process features of fisheries and bycatch obtained in Task 7.3
- Make recommendations to appropriate REDUCE project outputs (science-policy, outreach, etc.) to describe project findings.
- Facilitate adoption of binding regulations for mandatory bycatch mitigation (as appropriate, depending on the nature of the outcomes of REDUCE project)
- Elaborate the REDUCE project deliverable D7.3 - Policy brief on mitigation methods and implementation pathways. A description of key findings from the REDUCE project Task 7.3, contexts and recommendations for national/regional regulations for multitaxon bycatch mitigation measures.

As specified in tasks 1 and 4, the awarded company will need to produce two reports:

Deliverable D7.1 in December 2025: Assessment of bycatch reduction. An evaluation of bycatch rates in different taxa and gears, in relation to the use and effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Deliverable D7.3 in December 2027: Policy report on mitigation methods and avenues for application. A description of the key results from activity 3 of the REDUCE project, contexts, and recommendations for national/regional regulations regarding mitigation measures for incidental catches of multiple taxa.

The technical team of the REDUCE project at the University of Barcelona will provide the awarding entity with any additional information required from the different WPs.

Monthly meetings will be held with the research team of the REDUCE project to monitor the provision of the service during the contract period. These will primarily take place via teleconference, but it is expected to have an annual in-person meeting related to the working groups.

The place of execution will be as needed, depending on the nature of the contract. The research team will inform the awarded company accordingly.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

The technical proposal must describe the methodology for executing the project, outlining the procedures proposed for carrying out the work, so that the understanding of the bidder regarding the Terms of Reference can be assessed and whether their approach is suitable for this contract. All aspects deemed relevant to explain the planned development of the assigned tasks mentioned above should be included. The procedures for all tasks to be carried out in the project, the corresponding action index, and the deliverables of WP7, as stated in section 2 of the technical specifications, should be presented.

4. WORK TEAM AND MATERIAL

To securely cover the work lines of WP7 and achieve the project's objectives, it is required that the contracted company have a work team that meets the following requirements:

- A Ph.D. in Marine Sciences, Environment, or a closely related field.
- Authorship of research papers in peer-reviewed journals or those included in the Science Citation Index, or publications to fisheries commissions documenting research activities, evidence of supervising tertiary education students (undergraduate, master's, or doctoral), or reports to funding agencies for research related to the scope of this project.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in managing large-scale, complex multilateral projects.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in consultancy and advising in mitigation of bycatch of megafauna.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in writing policy reports, communicating scientific results to industry and policymakers, and drafting fisheries regulations.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience working on electronic monitoring in distant-water fisheries.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience supporting the industry in obtaining seafood certification, including the development, management, or execution of fishery improvement projects.

- A minimum of 10 years of experience in managing observer deployments for conducting research activities during commercial fishing operations

The required materials are: nets, harms, circle hooks, hookpods, tori lines, and mitigation devices for marine megafauna group

Barcelona,

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