

## TENDER NOTICE

### Assessment of Bycatch in Gill Net Fisheries

**Branch:** United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

**Division:** Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

#### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

Preparation of a report providing an assessment of bycatch of migratory species in gill net fisheries

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Carry out a comprehensive review of all global commercial and artisanal gill net 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 and the CMS Secretariat.
2. Where possible, for each fishery, examine recent fishing effort and bycatch information and evaluate the level of impact on non-target species, particularly CMS listed species.
3. Review mitigation methods aimed at reducing mortalities of seabirds, marine turtles, sharks and marine mammals due to interactions with gill net fishing gear, and prepare a comprehensive report assessing their effectiveness, recommending mitigation methods for fisheries, and identifying areas for further research.
4. Prepare a report that identifies the importance of bycatch in gill net fisheries 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 treaty which aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian species over the whole of their migratory range. To achieve this objective 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 114 Contracting Parties to the Convention.

CMS seeks to conserve threatened migratory species by endeavouring to protect their 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, 8.14 and 9.18. 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. Whilst recent reviews of bycatch have targeted longline, trawl and purse seine gear types, the global impact of gill net fisheries is not well understood. To address this issue, the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Council agreed to urgently focus attention on this gear type.

Knowledge of where and when gill net bycatch occurs, and the scale at which it is occurring, are critical information gaps that hinder progress in minimising the impacts of this threat. This project seeks to address this issue, which in turn will help CMS, its subsidiary daughter agreements, their

Party states and others play a more active part in prioritising action in high impact fisheries. It should be noted that CMS daughter agreements (ACAP, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, Wadden Sea Seals) and Memoranda of Understanding (Marine Turtles IOSEA, Marine Turtles Africa, Pacific Islands Cetaceans, Western African Aquatic Mammals, Monk Seal, Sharks, Dugong) may have information that can assist in this study.

## **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 gill net 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**

1. Carry out a comprehensive review of gill net fisheries to assess the available information on the bycatch<sup>1</sup> 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. The review should also identify mitigation measures aimed at reducing mortalities of migratory species due to interactions with gill net fishing gear, and assess their effectiveness.
2. The contractor should develop a definition of the term 'fishery' for this study, noting that there is no single approach taken to this across jurisdictions. Typically fisheries are defined by gear type, target species, geographical area, season, or a combination of these. Some artisanal fisheries in particular may cross jurisdictions but are known by different names within each jurisdiction. An appropriate definition should look to contain the extent of work and deliver outcomes related to manageable conservation units.
3. The study will be desktop based. For each fishery, where possible:
  - 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 bycatch of seabirds, turtles, sharks and marine mammals, together with an indication of any trend.
4. Based on existing literature, FAO data and other appropriate sources, determine key gill net fisheries that are having a significant impact on migratory species listed in CMS Appendices.
5. Prepare a report that provides an overview of fisheries, regions and species and prioritise conservation action.
6. Prepare a separate comprehensive report that describes the mitigation methods that have been applied to reducing mortality of migratory species through interactions with gill net fishing gear, assesses their effectiveness, recommends methods for adoption by fisheries, and identifies

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<sup>1</sup> In carrying out this study it will be necessary to develop a definition of 'bycatch', noting that terms such as 'by-product', 'accidental mortality', 'incidental mortality', 'non-target catch', 'un-regulated catch' and other terms are frequently applied to various portions of fishing catch that has not been specifically targeted.

areas for further research. This report should, where possible

- distinguish between types of fisheries, with recommendations being appropriate to their different contexts and gear types;
- comprise information relevant for each of the migratory species groups covered by the CMS (seabirds, turtles, sharks and marine mammals).

'Ghost fishing', the ongoing capture of marine wildlife by discarded fishing gear, is acknowledged as a significant threat to migratory species that can be considered as a bycatch problem, but does not form part of this study.

## OUTPUTS

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

**Two separate final reports** covering the policy and scientific background to the work, the methodologies employed, results, conclusions and recommendations suitable for publication on the Internet.

The reports will contain non-technical **executive summaries** 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.

The approved final reports 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 reports 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.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SETTINGS

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 Marine Mammals Officer (in consultation with the Conference-appointed Scientific Councillor for Bycatch). The CMS Marine Mammals 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.

The contractor may be required to visit the CMS Secretariat and/or attend a Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council to report upon the findings of the study. The costs of this, if required, will be paid by CMS under a separate arrangement.

## TIMING

The contract will be expected to last approximately 9 months from the date of its award. The anticipated start date is 15 November 2010. The final reports are expected to be submitted on 30 September 2011 in time for their consideration by the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.

## **PROGRAMME OF WORK AND MILESTONES**

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. Proposals should also state expected gross consultancy fees. In case the resources available would not be sufficient to complete the work as envisaged, the CMS Secretariat reserves the right to request proposals to reduce the scope of the work to fit the project budget.

## **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.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Tenders will be assessed against the criteria set out below. Tenderers are encouraged trying to assess their own proposal against these criteria before they submit it. It is important to realise that the Selection Panel will score proposals against each of these criteria.

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*

- value for money – maximum funds available for this project are 43,693 USD

### **Send Quotations To:**

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**Closing Date: 25 October 2010**