



**Specification for services to Project UK Fisheries Improvements  
August 2016**

**Title of work: Project UK Fisheries Improvements**

**Client:** Project UK Fisheries Improvements

**Eligible Contractors:** Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited to conduct MSC fishery assessments and independent consultants who have undertaken a minimum of 2 MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years or are on the MSC's Technical Consultants Register.

**Deadline for Tender:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August

**Period of contract:** Three months for Stage 1. One month for Stage 2.

**Project proposal:**

Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI) is a collaborative pre-competitive partnership working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries, led by MSC and Seafish. It builds on the outputs and methods of the successful and innovative Project Inshore which used the MSC pre-assessment process as a tool to assess and inform the management of English inshore fisheries.

PUKFI aims to establish and facilitate Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) for priority species identified by Project Inshore, using the MSC FIP tools and definition of a credible FIP to create change on the water. The implementation of this project will provide an example of how FIPs can be developed within a UK context on a range of different fisheries.

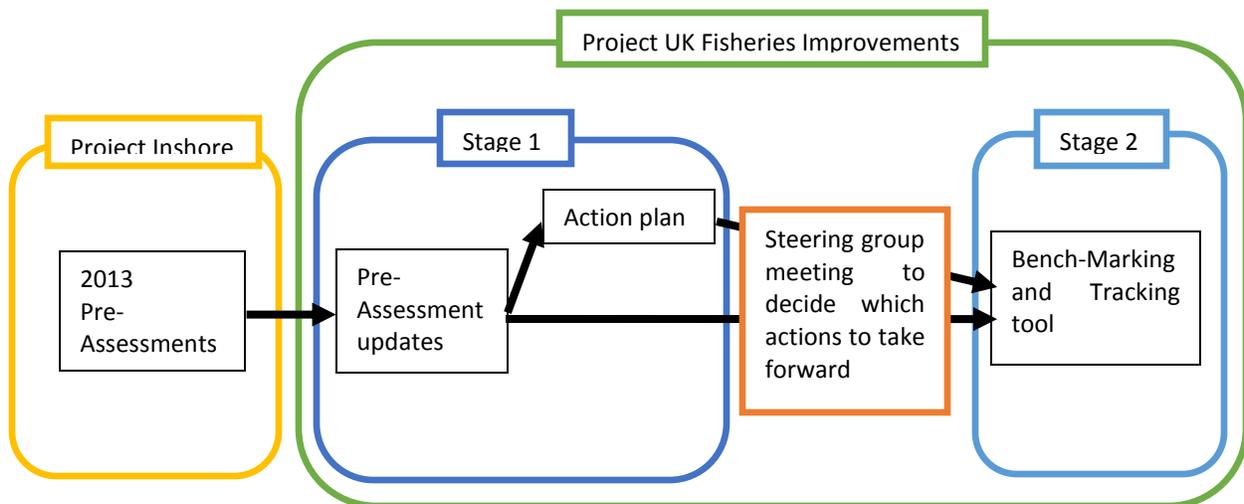
PUKFI will update the Project Inshore Pre Assessment results which were published in March 2013 with new information and to move them onto the new MSC Certification Requirements (CR2.0). These updated results will be used as a baseline to develop FIPs and Action Plans, where required, aligned to the MSC definition of a credible FIP to move the fisheries to the point where they could meet the MSC standard.

Each PUKFI FIP will be guided by a steering groups made up of key stakeholders from industry, managers, supply chain, retailers and NGOs. An action plan will be developed for each FIP using the MSC PA and BMT to provide the fishery with the tools to implement changes and to ensure their sustainable future. PUKFI is supported by a multi stakeholder PUKFI Advisory Group.

All FIPs will adhere to the MSC's definition of a credible FIP. For full details of this definition go to: <https://www.msc.org/documents/developing-world/msc-accessibility-tools/definition-of-a-credible-fip/view>

There are a number of stages to PUKFI and this contract will cover two of them. These two stages are:

- Stage 1 - Update of the Project Inshore Pre-Assessments with new information and move onto CR version 2.0 for relevant PIs and creation of Action Plans for each species
- Stage 2 – Use the Pre-Assessments and action plans to fill out the MSC’s Bench-Marking and Tracking tool.



**The six species identified by the supply chain were:**

North Sea Plaice  
North Sea Lemon sole  
Channel Scallop  
Western & Channel Monkfish  
South West Crab  
South West Lobster

Regional steering groups for each of the 6 species have been set up.



**Project Partners & Contacts:**

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Seafish  
[www.seafish.org](http://www.seafish.org)

**Funding Partners:**

Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUK FI) is funded by the following organisations:

- Coombe Fisheries Ltd
- Co-op
- Direct Seafood Ltd
- Falfish Ltd
- Flatfish Ltd
- Icelandic Seachill
- Lyons Seafood
- MacDuff Shellfish & Clearwater
- Marks & Spencer
- Morrison's
- New England Seafoods
- OceanFish Ltd
- Sainsbury's
- Tesco
- Waitrose
- WWF
- Youngs Ltd



### Support to contractor:

It is intended that Steering group members for each FIP will provide support to the contractor in form of provision of information and local advice. This may be in the form of in person meetings or calls. There is a dedicated PUKFI Project Officer, based within MSC, to work with the contractor through the process where appropriate.

The MSC can provide technical assistance on the MSC process and definition of a credible FIP.

In order that there is a clear understanding of the specification described it is intended that all contractors who express interest in tendering have the opportunity to discuss the project with the project lead. The successful contractor will have an in-person briefing.

### Services Specification Stage 1:

Stage 1 is to update the MSC pre-assessments that were carried out under project inshore on the target fisheries that have been selected by the supply chain and retailers as being of particular relevance to their markets. The Project Inshore Pre-Assessments were carried out in 2013 and need to be updated to include new information and move them onto the most recent MSC Certification Requirements V2.0. Where Performance Indicators have not changed, these will not need to be rescored. These Pre-Assessments are to consider the entirety of the target fisheries, not limited to the inshore. The Pre-Assessments should use the MSC Pre-Assessment template, and assess the fishery to scoring guidepost level where appropriate in order to inform the action plan and future BMT in detail. Scores should be given in scoring categories as per the MSC's scoring system e.g. <60, 60-80, >80.

The reports should include recommendations of which other countries or groups of vessels it is necessary to work with in order to improve the fishery. The Pre-Assessment results will then be used to formulate an action plan to improve the scores to a level by which the fishery is ready for full MSC assessment. The selected contractor will then be required to present these action plans to the steering groups of each FIP through in person meetings over 3 days (not necessarily consecutive days).

Project Inshore Pre-Assessments are freely available online at: <http://msc.solidproject.co.uk/msc-project-inshore.aspx>

The proposed Action Plan will consider the outcomes from the pre assessments in the context of:

- The existing fisheries management regime
- Those aspects of fisheries management the UK and other countries involved in fishing the stock can control & influence
- The existing data provision for the fisheries and future requirements to support certification
- The potential for management changes in light of the exit of the UK from the EU



The Plan will need to incorporate:

- A proposed program to work towards achieving MSC certification
- Data requirements to support full assessment process for all fisheries
- Management measures required to support certification of fisheries
- An indication of the potential changes in scoring categories for PIs over the period of its implementation if recommendations implemented
- Approximate costing of the actions within the action plan where possible

### Outputs of Stage I:

1. Conduct an update of the project Inshore Pre Assessments on the target fisheries listed. This is the gap analysis that is the first stage of the credible FIP process. The target units of assessment are listed in the section below.
2. In regard to the latter Pre Assessment outcome, it will be necessary to comprehensively identify the reasons why the fishery is not suitable for immediate full assessment (e.g. by-catch and discard levels, knowledge gaps, habitat damage, management gaps).
3. Develop specific actions and incorporate into an action plan for improvement linked to MSC Performance Indicators and Scoring Guideposts to increase scoring up to up to the SG80 level of best practice, within a maximum of 5 years. The action plan will enable the fishery to implement and track progress. Use the MSC Action Plan Template, accessed here: <https://www.msc.org/documents/developing-world/fishery-improvement-projects/action-plan-template/view>
4. To produce an output report using the MSC Pre Assessment template (accessed here: <https://www.msc.org/documents/scheme-documents/forms-and-templates/msc-pre-assessment-reporting-template-v2.0/view> ) for each species with easily distinguishable section for each UoA. This should include:
  - Pre-Assessment results
  - Action Plan
5. Delivery of Stage 1 outcomes through a presentation to each FIP steering group. Produce appropriate material to support dissemination of outputs from stage I including summary reports and presentation material suitable for dissemination purposes and present the Pre-Assessment results and proposed Action Plan for each FIP to the appropriate steering group.



**Units of Assessments:**

Species	Area	Gear
Plaice, <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	North Sea (IV)	Beam Trawl
		Demersal trawl
		Seine
Lemon sole, <i>Microstomus kitt</i>	North Sea (IV)	Beam trawl
		Demersal trawl
		Seine
Crab*, <i>Cancer pangurus</i>	Western Channel	Pots
	Celtic sea	Pots
Lobster*, <i>Hommarus gammarus</i>	Southwest	Pots
Scallop, <i>Pecten maximus</i>	Eastern Channel	Dredge
	Western Channel	Dredge
Monkfish, <i>Lophius, piscatorius</i>	Western & Channel (VII b-k, VIII a/b/d)	Beam trawl
		Demersal Trawl
		Gill net

\*Please also make specific to reference to the Inshore Potting Agreement and advice on separating this out as a unit of certification.

**Expected time span Stage 1:**

3 months for delivery of all outputs of Phase I.  
Attendance at FIP Steering Groups

**Services Specification Stage 2:**

In Stage 2 the contractor will use the Pre-Assessment results and the Action Plan to complete the BMT, as agreed by the Steering Groups. The Steering Groups may chose not to progress some fisheries into Stage II, but the intention is to progress all.

The aim of this stage is to use the Pre-Assessment results and Action plan from stage 1 to complete the MSC’s Bench-Marking and Tracking Tool with the expected Performance Indicator results of the fishery for each year of the FIP. The total length of the FIP may vary for each fishery with the ideal length being 3 years, but no more than 5 years.

This stage will ensure the Steering Groups for each fishery are at a point where they have all the tools to commence actions within a credible FIP context.



## Outputs Stage 2:

A BMT spreadsheet and associated dashboard for each fishery, using the Pre Assessment results and Action plans developed in Stage 1, showing the expected scores per year of the fishery should it put the recommended actions into place. The BMT can be found here: <https://www.msc.org/about-us/credibility/all-fisheries/tools-for-fisheries-improving-towards-msc-certification/benchmarking-and-tracking-tool/>

## Expected Time Span Stage 2:

1 month from delivery of Stage 1 to the steering groups, which will be in early November.

## Details of contract available for tender:

The specification has been divided into two elements described as stages. These are intended to help the contractor and provide clear milestones in the work program. It is essential that the contractor tenders for both stages.

## Quotations should include:

- Electronic copy
- Financial figures for the total project and each stage identified separately. Please also include a quote per Unit of Assessment in stage II (figures should identify VAT element)
- A suitable plan of intended work (e.g. Gant Chart) including milestones
- Earliest commencement date
- Identifying the individual responsible for managing the contract & contact for client
- Where the consultants conducting the work would be based
- Estimate of time required for meetings with lead partner
- Supporting documentation that addresses all aspects of the services specification (Includes a schedule of intended elements of report)

## Timeline:

Tenders received: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Applicants notified: Week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> August

Work should be undertaken in: September & October

Work should be completed, Stages 1: October 31<sup>st</sup>

Work presented at FIP steering group meetings: First 2 weeks of November, date TBA

Work should be completed, Stages 2: One month after steering group meetings, circa mid-December



**Address for submission:**

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**Further notes:**

The MSC on behalf of PUKFI reserves the right to not accept any tenders following submission. The assessment process is confidential and will take place as per the timeline above. Following assessment of tenders the client may approach any contractor and request them to provide further supporting information as required.

Payment terms are as follows: within 30 days following completion of required specification. The possibility of staged payments according to the proposed schedule provided may be considered subject to assessments of tenders.



Marine Stewardship Council



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