



Request for Quotations

Training course in longline fishing operations

The Tuvalu Fisheries Department (TFD), implementing the Tuvalu Fisheries Support Programme (TFSP), is seeking quotations from suitably qualified and experienced consultants for the design and delivery of an introductory course in longline fishing operations at the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI). The course will be for experienced Tuvaluan seamen who are recruited to work as crew in the Australian East Coast Tuna Fishery, and the programme will build capacity in TMTI to deliver the course in future without external assistance.

Details of the assignment are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Timing and delivery

The consultant must be contracted during September, and will be expected to hold some initial consultations before the end of the month. Some flexibility will be required in the timing of other inputs, however, as the delivery of the first course should come shortly before the next group of crew are due to start work in Australia. There may also be some delays in logistics, delivery of course materials etc. The consultant will be expected to work around these issues. However, it is intended that the assignment will be completed by mid-2020.

Assessment of Proposals

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria by the senior management committee of the TFD. Each criterion will have equal weighting:

- Formal qualifications in the maritime or fisheries fields with additional qualifications in human resource development or training and assessment;
- Experience of the design and delivery of short practical courses for fishing crew;
- Experience of working with maritime training institutions in developing countries, preferably in the Pacific Islands;
- The three desirable qualifications/experience listed in the TOR;
- Value for money.

Submission of proposals

Interested consultants should submit the following documents in support of their proposal:

- a) Confirmation of the dates on which he/she will be available to start work and the proposed schedule of inputs;
- b) A response to the selection criteria listed above;
- c) A brief curriculum vitae of the consultant (not more than 3 pages);
- d) A detailed cost estimate including fees, air travel costs, DSA and any incidentals. This should include travel arrangements for attachments of the TMTI instructors, and purchase of minor items of equipment and supplies to facilitate the delivery of the project. It will form basis of the contract.

Proposals should be sent by email to michaelb@tuvalufisheries.tv and should reach him by 5.00 p.m. local time (in Tuvalu) on Tuesday 27th August 2019. Any questions on the proposed consultancy can be sent to the same email address and will be answered within 5 working days. This request for proposals should not be construed as an offer to any consultant contacted. TFD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to negotiate with any bidder if the original proposal is not acceptable.

Terms of Reference

Longline Crew Training Project

Background

The New Zealand-funded Tuvalu Fishery Support Programme (TFSP) of the Tuvalu Fisheries Department (TFD) is assisting with the establishment of a longline crew training programme at the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI). This initiative aims to provide fishing-industry employment opportunities in the Australian tuna longline industry for qualified Tuvaluan seafarers currently unable to find jobs because of the downturn in merchant shipping opportunities.

A small number of Tuvaluan crew have already been placed on Australian tuna longliners operating in the East coast fishery, which is based out of Ulladulla NSW and Mooloolaba QLD under a pilot project of the Pacific Labour Scheme. This has been successful, and more placements are planned. Discussions with the industry body, Tuna Australia, have identified some pre-service training that will help new crew to be more effective when they start; as well as a willingness to assist such a training programme with equipment and advice.

The intended outcome of the consultancy is to have an effective programme of training, that can be delivered by TMTI, and which provides Tuvaluan crew for Australian longline vessels who know what to expect from their new jobs, and who can perform to the satisfaction of their employers. A related task will aim to resolve the recognition of sea safety training at TMTI by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). As well as providing training in basic fishing and gear handling skills, the course will cover on board handling of sashimi grade tuna, and elements of the East Coast tuna management plan.

The consultant will be expected to manage a range of activities to ensure that the new training programme is successfully put in place. These will include ensuring that the necessary equipment is on site in Tuvalu; arranging practical attachments for two TMTI instructors so that they understand the industry in which their trainees will be working; designing and developing the course curriculum and learning criteria; and helping to deliver the first course with TMTI counterparts and an experienced longline captain (to be provided by SPC).

The following paragraphs describe the tasks to be undertaken by the consultant and the expected timetable of inputs and outputs, however it should be recognised that changes may be needed as the programme develops and some flexibility will be necessary.

Tasks to be undertaken

The consultant will undertake the following tasks (not necessarily in this order):

Preparatory work

- Review the scoping study for the development of the course that was prepared as part of a short consultancy in June 2019.
- Undertake meetings with Tuna Australia and Palladium (the consulting company developing the Pacific labour Scheme) to discuss training needs for the industry, and how the training programme can fit with the process and timetable for selection of new crew, so as to ensure that it is delivered to those who will need it.
- Firm up arrangements for support for the programme offered by Tuna Australia in terms of supply of equipment and placement of instructors on vessels operated by their members.
- Hold discussions with AMSA on the issue of recognition of TMTI sea safety training. Identify the process needed to secure such recognition, and any action that is needed from the Tuvalu side, noting that Tuvalu and its training standards are on the IMO white list.

Equipment procurement

- Follow-up with engineering staff at TMTI on the repair of a longline reel to be mounted/installed onshore and used for the training; assist in the procurement of any spare parts or fittings needed.

- Follow-up with Tuna Australia on their offer to provide hooks, clips, artificial baits and other materials and equipment for the training programme. Prepare for shipment, investigate logistics and liaise with TFD to arrange shipment and delivery to TMTI.

Course development

- Develop a short, targeted longline training course based on similar existing training courses and the requirements of the Australian tuna and broadbill longline industry that includes learning outcomes, performance criteria and course delivery methodology along with student learning resources.
- Prepare a pilot longline course outline that incorporates student selection process; training delivery strategy; proposed instructors including any contracted instructors for assistance in the longline specific component, the seafood handling component and the tuna management plan component; and the resources needed to deliver the course.

Instructor placement

- Arrange an instructor placement programme with Tuna Australia for the placement of two TMTI instructors on Australian east coast longline vessels to gain exposure to longlining operations in the industry. Arrange travel, accommodation and logistics in Australia and address any problems that arise.

Initial course delivery

- Working with TMTI instructors and an experienced longline captain sourced from SPC, deliver a pilot “Introduction to Longline Fishing Operations” course for a maximum of ten participants. The course will be timed to align with the potential recruitment of Tuvaluans to work on longline vessels in Australia as part of the Pacific Labour Scheme.

Reporting

- Prepare a short report of the assignment which:
 - Documents the activities undertaken;
 - Assesses delivery of the first course and identifies any shortfalls or problem areas that need to be addressed;
 - Makes recommendations to TMTI and TFD as appropriate.

If required the schedule of tasks may be modified by mutual agreement.

Methodology and Timing

The Consultant will be contracted by the Tuvalu Fisheries Support Programme, an activity funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme and managed by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Funafuti, Tuvalu.

Timing will be largely dependent on the schedule for recruitment of the next group of longline crew to work in Australia. It is envisaged that the consultant will need to provide inputs of up to 40 days. This will involve home-based preparatory work; visits to Canberra and Brisbane to meet with Australian stakeholders; arrangement of instructor placement on vessels based out of Mooloolaba or Ulladulla, and delivery of the two week course in Tuvalu. The contract must be signed before 30th September 2019, and the consultant will start work as soon after contract signature as possible.

The Consultant will report to the Director of Fisheries (in the first instance), and the MFAT contracted Fisheries Adviser, and will be assigned a counterpart in the Tuvalu Fisheries Department.

The Consultant is expected to work collaboratively with the TFD and any other Government of Tuvalu agencies in a relationship based on mutual respect and accountability, trust, fairness, and open and professional interactions.

Qualifications and experience

The following qualifications and experience would be expected for the consultant:

Essential:

- Formal qualifications in the maritime or fisheries fields with additional qualifications in human resource development or training and assessment;
- Experience of the design and delivery of short practical courses for fishing crew;
- Experience of working with maritime training institutions in developing countries, preferably in the Pacific Islands.

Desirable:

- An understanding of the requirements for recognition of training qualifications by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority or similar regulatory bodies;
- Experience of work in Tuvalu and with the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute;
- Able to facilitate placements on vessels based out of the Australian East Coast Tuna Fishery ports.