



- TERMS OF REFERENCE -

Maldives Pole and Line Tuna Port Sampling Project

A. Introduction and Context

As a full member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Maldives has been striving to fully comply with the data requirements of IOTC. However, minor lags exist in the collection and reporting of fishery related scientific data. These include those in size data, size and species composition of tunas caught around anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (aFAD's) and a revised ratio of bigeye to yellowfin tuna in the Thunnus component of pole and line (PL) caught tunas.

Due to the small number of bigeye tuna caught in the pole and line fishery, the fishery data collection system of the Maldives does not segregate the catch of bigeye from the yellowfin tuna catches. To address this issue when reporting the national catch, the proportion of bigeye tuna in the Thunnus component of the fishery was estimated based on studies conducted by the Marine Research Centre. This estimate is in need of revision in light of the developments in the fishery over the past decades.

The ongoing tuna size sampling program at the Marine Research Centre (MRC) is sub-optimal at present and has been unable to fully comply with the size data requirements of IOTC. The project would supplement the ongoing size sampling activities and help achieve the data requirement objectives and also set precedent to a permanent sampling program that is to be funded by the Government of Maldives

B. Proposed Outline and Outcomes of the Assessment

The Marine Research Centre is mandated to conduct scientific studies and provide data and feedback on the fisheries of the Maldives to the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. The programs at MRC include data collection on the size of tunas caught. Revision of species composition and sizes segregated on the different aspects of the fishery are also part of the programs at the Centre. It is also responsible for the monitoring (i.e. ensuring timely completion, keeping records of project related activities, project briefs, and communicate to WWF staff) and provision of fishery related scientific data to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as part of the mandatory statistical requirement.

The proposed project aims to contribute to the said activities of MRC and as well as obtain revised estimates for the species composition and sizes of tunas caught in the Maldives pole and line fishery.

The objectives of the project aim to enhance the data collection efforts of tunas caught in the Maldives pole and line fishery, by conducting regular sampling activities in the three main landing ports of the country.

The objectives of the project are to:



- Enhance the size sampling program and achieve the minimum reporting requirement from CPC's of IOTC.
- Obtain species and size composition of tunas caught in the Maldivian PL fishery near aFAD's
- Obtain a revised a ratio of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Thunnus component of the PL catch.

To meet the objectives highlighted above, the Marine Research Center (MRC) and to ensure monitoring and continue to maintain a collaborative approach, a position for coordinating this project may be done. The position for coordinator may also ensure to undertake supervision of the relevant activities highlighted below in detail.

Please note that this project will build on the already commissioned work.

Under the sampling program scientific data on tunas landed at the selected sites will be collected through paid samplers. The sites are Lh. Felivaru, L. Maandhoo and GA. Kooddoo.

Two samplers from the islands in the close vicinity of the sites will perform their duties 5 days per week. Their work will be guided by this Terms of Reference, closely monitored by MRC.

Initial visits to the landing ports to identify and train the samplers would be done followed by up to 3 visits per year to monitor and refresh the samplers.

Objective 1: Achieve the minimum reporting requirement of the size sampling program to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Activities:

Conduct size sampling activities at the identified ports for the size sampling program of the Marine Research Centre.

Objective 2: Obtain species and size composition of tunas caught in the Maldivian pole and line fishery near Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices

Activities:

Collect data on the sizes and species of the catch specific to the Anchored Fish Aggregating devices, at the identified fish landing ports.

Objective 3: Obtain a revised a ratio of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Thunnus component of the pole and line catch.

Activities:

Establish data collection at the identified fish landing ports to estimate the ratio of bigeye and yellowfin tunas in the Thunnus component of the PL catch.

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**Timeline of deliverables**

Deliverables	INDICATORS	Date
Commissioning of sampling and hiring of coordinator	Trip report, ToRs of Coordinator	Within 15 days of signing of project agreement
Data collection at the identified ports	Activity reports of samplers	2 months into the project
Compiled data, facilitation in monitoring trips	Data sets and activity reports	Upon completion of the project

In addition to the above deliverables, the WWF Recipient will also provide the WWF-Australia with at least one video recording or ten still photographs, of professional standards, accompanied by a Talent Release Form permitting publication of the video/photographs in any media (newspaper, website, television) signed by all persons in the video/photograph (Attachment 5) on or before the 31 July 2015 and 31 January 2016.

- a) Provide a minimum of 10 (approved) project related images:
- A mix of landscape and portrait
 - High resolution 300 dpi (min document size: 3200 px) e.g. for use in print
 - Preferred files as high-resolution jpegs.
 - WWF-Australia will jointly own the use of these photos to both promote the project, the work of WWF and in future material (print, online, media, social media and with third parties)
 - All photos taken can be used by WWF Donor/Primary Donor will be jointly owned/credited to WWF Recipient and WWF Donor/Primary Donor in the future.
 - Ensure anyone appearing in a photo is aware that it may be used by WWF Donor/Primary Donor in the future and they have given their consent (Talent Release Form). This is particularly important for children or Indigenous people. Signed form will have to be provided to WWF Donor for records and onward reporting to Primary Donor.
 - Captions required - where is it, who is it, what's happening.

C. Outcomes

The outputs from this project will include trip reports, contracts and datasets as outlined in Table 1. All reports will be written in the English language, and shall describe in detail the services rendered during the period of time covered in such report. All reports shall be delivered by the Maldives MRC in the form of a soft copy to be sent electronically to programme.