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Answers to request for clarifications

RFP22-4498 – Estimation of sea-cucumber stocks in French Polynesia and recommendations for sustainable fishing

Date: 12 October 2022

Question: Is it possible for two independent consultants to respond, or should one take the case and outsource to the second?

Answer: We prefer that one responds and subcontracts to the second.

Question: Is the study in Taha'a - Raiatea optional?

Answer: Yes, the priority remains the Apataki lagoon. But depending on the costs, the Directorate of Marine Resources (DRM) with the support of PROTEGE/SPC would like to be able to also study Taha'a-Raiatea.

Question: Is the study of the 2 teat sea-cucumbers species compulsory, and the 5 other species optional?

Answer: The study of the white teatfish and black teatfish species is a priority. But depending on the costs, the DRM alongside PROTEGE/SPC would like to be able to also study the other 5 species which are of commercial interest.

Question: Do you have a template for the financial proposal?

Answer: We leave it to the bidders to submit their model financial proposal with all the options. SPC must be able to compare bidders' proposals by comparing the same units: sampled area, number of species, etc.

Question: Could you give more details on the expectations in terms of sampling density?

Answer: We leave it to bidders to propose the sampling density they deem appropriate by seeking the best cost/quality ratio of the stock estimate. Several sampling scenarios can be proposed: minimum, optimal, maximum.



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Question: The RFP documents mentions the intention to open *Holothuria atra* to fishing, can you confirm that it is indeed this species?

Answer: Yes, confirmed.

Question: What are the expectations and objectives related to the fishermen survey questionnaire? Is it a matter of integrating knowledge into the distribution/abundance of species.

Answer: Yes, exactly. Collecting their knowledge on the ecology of species (distribution according to the lunar cycle, depth, etc.) would also be appropriate.

Question: Is a component relating to fishing and the current management of the resource to be considered?

Answer: It would be interesting to collect the feelings of fishermen on the evolution of the resource, on their catch per unit effort (CPUE). A priori, the management measures do not have to be discussed with the fishermen as part of this study, but recommendations could be shared with them.

Question: How many fishermen are to survey per island?

Answer: About 10.

Question: In terms of time, should this phase precede the meeting to present the study to the population, or be consecutive to it?

Answer: Surveys should be done after the presentation meeting because the study should not start without people knowing about it.