

Terms of Reference for Expert Consultant

Report on the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks

Posting Title:	Expert consultant – Scientific and technical expert on impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks
Department/Office:	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (“the Division”)
Duty Station :	Home based (remote work)
Application Deadline :	2 February 2026 (Midnight, New York, USA)
Type of Contract:	Consultancy
Post Level:	Consultant, Level C
Languages Required:	English
Starting Date : (date when the selected candidate is expected to start)	18 February 2026
Duration:	6 weeks full-time. 18 February to 1 April 2026
Contract Sum:	15000 USD (paid upon the Division’s confirmation of completion of each phase)

Background

Since the adoption of resolution 61/105 in 2006, the General Assembly has been monitoring how States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) address the impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks. Since then, it has conducted reviews of actions taken by States and RFMO/As in response to its resolutions on sustainable fisheries of 2009, 2011, 2016 and 2022.

Following its 2022 review, in paragraph 223 of resolution 77/118 of 9 December 2022, the General Assembly decided to conduct, in 2026, a further review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 181, 203 to 207, 209, 210, 213, 215 to 222 and 257 of resolution 77/118, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary, and to precede that review with a two-day workshop.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report similar in scope, length and detail to his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session,⁴⁸ in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with the assistance of an expert consultant to be hired by the Division to provide information and analysis on relevant technical and scientific issues to be covered in the report, for consideration by the Assembly at its eighty-first session, on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 181, 203 to 207, 209, 210, 213, 215 to 222 and 257 of resolution 77/118.

Job description

Under the supervision of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, the consultant will prepare the section containing an overview of the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks of the updated report of the Secretary-General on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 181, 203 to 207, 209, 210, 213, 215 to 222 and 257 of resolution 77/118, to be prepared in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and provide information and analysis on relevant technical and scientific issues for other sections of the report.

Timetable

Start date: 1 February 2026; Completion date: 15 March 2026

Remuneration: A lump sum of US \$15,000 (gross) to be paid in two installments. The first installment of \$7,500 will be paid upon delivery by 15 February of an initial draft section of the report of the Secretary-General, as described above. The second installment of \$7,500 will be paid upon delivery of the final draft section of the report and upon certification by DOALOS of satisfactory completion of the work.

Qualifications and experience required:

Advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent) in marine biology, fisheries law, ocean governance, environment/ocean-based science, or related fields. Demonstrated knowledge of and experience researching the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks. A minimum of 8 years of progressively responsible experience in fisheries or marine scientific research or fisheries management is required. Evidence of recent relevant research and publications is required. Previous work experience in the UN system or with regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements is desirable. Special skills required include specialized knowledge and expertise on the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine

ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, the policy and legal acts being implemented by Member States on this matter and the work and functioning of regional fisheries bodies on this topic, not currently available in the Division.

Confidentiality: The text of the draft report is under embargo and may not be shared with anyone. The consultant should contact DOALOS for any questions they may have.

Duration of contract: 1.5 months

Contract sum: **US\$ 15,000**

TO APPLY TO THIS CONSULTANCY:

Please send an email to amerim@un.org (with a copy to doalos@un.org) with cover letter and Curriculum Vitae or UN Personal History Form

Please indicate “Bottom fishing consultancy application” in the email subject line

Closing date: 2 February 2026

**** Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply ****