



Submission of proposal for sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area

**7, Exchange Square
Wall Street
Ebene
72201
Invite date: 25 August 2023**

Letter of Invitation

Name of the Assignment: **Sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area**

Country: **Mauritius**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Economic Development Board (EDB) on behalf of the Mauritius/ Seychelles Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf invites proposals to provide the following services: Sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area.

More details on the services are provided in the brief section.

Your sincerely

EDB team

For Mauritius/ Seychelles Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf

- 1. Eligibility** Interested parties participating in this selection process shall ascertain that they satisfy the eligibility criteria mentioned hereunder.
- Business/Company documents including Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum and Articles of Association (if applicable)
 - Valid fishing licence for operators
 - Certification in accordance with national standards for divers
 - All necessary permits for operating vessels at sea including valid skipper licence
 - Adherence to the list of conditions for sea cucumber fisheries
- 2. Documents to be submitted** Interested parties will be required to provide the following in their submission:
- Proposal and methodology for sea cucumber fishing activities
 - Details on storage, processing and market destination
 - Experience in offshore fisheries
- 3. Submission of proposal** Proposal should be considered complete and valid if they consist of submission of all required documents
- The submission of proposal with supporting information/documents in sealed envelopes and labelled with title “Proposal for sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area” should be addressed to the following authority:
- Economic Development Board
Ground Floor, 7 Exchange Square
Wall Street, Ebene 72201
Republic of Mauritius
- Hand delivered proposals should reach the above institution at latest 13th of September 2023 at 02:00 pm
- Any proposals received after that date and time or by e-mail will be rejected.
- 4. Opening of Proposal** Proposal will be opened by the Economic Development Board on 14th September 2023.
- 5. Rights of Public Body** The authorities reserve the right to accept or reject any proposal and to annul the whole exercise without incurring any liability whatsoever towards any participant.

Brief on assignment to be performed

1. Background

The Mauritius/Seychelles Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf (Joint Commission) is inviting submission of proposals from eligible and qualified operators registered in Mauritius or Seychelles to undertake sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area (JMA) for an initial staggered period of one year. The Joint Commission has developed a framework setting out the conditions governing sea cucumber fisheries in the JMA. All selected operators will have an obligation to strictly adhere to these conditions.

Since 2011, Mauritius and Seychelles have exercised joint jurisdiction over the seabed and subsoil of the JMA for the purpose of exploring and exploiting the living and non-living resources, including sea cucumber.

2. Objectives

The objective of the exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area is to:

- a. Evaluate the distribution and stocks of sea cucumber in the JMA.

3. Conditions for sea cucumber fisheries in the Joint Management Area (JMA)- Mascarene Plateau Region

Interested parties are kindly requested to submit their proposals for sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area as per the conditions below:

1. Vessels shall only harvest sea cucumber species measuring at least 15 cm in length when wet (wet length), hereafter referred to as the “authorised species”. All sea cucumbers shall be measured dorsally from the mouth to the anus. For the purpose of these conditions, wet length means length measures undertaken when the sea cucumber is under water or fresh on-board the vessel, immediately after removal from the sea, prior to cutting and gutting. The harvesting of undersized sea cucumbers, that is, those measuring less than 15 cm when wet is prohibited.

2. Vessels shall harvest the authorised species within the JMA in the Mascarene Plateau region only. The limits of the JMA shall be defined in the Schedule to these Conditions. Harvesting of any species in any other area is prohibited.
3. Only licensed vessels shall be authorised to harvest the authorised species.
4. Licence for harvesting authorised species shall be for an initial fishing period of three (3) months, renewable on a quarterly basis up to maximum of one year for the respective fisheries authorities to gather sufficient data to assess the stock and establish a Total Allowable Catch (TAC).
5. The fisheries authorities shall be the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping for the Republic of Mauritius and the Seychelles Fishing Authority for the Republic of Seychelles.
6. Each State shall grant licences to a maximum of 6 vessels with a total of 4 divers per vessel.
7. Each vessel is only allowed to undertake a total of 6 fishing trips annually and each fishing trip shall be limited to a maximum period of 18 days, excluding travelling to fishing grounds and return to the port of departure.
8. A maximum of 5000 sea cucumber pieces shall be allowed per trip in the trial phase of the project pending the establishment of a TAC system.
9. All divers must be certified in accordance with standards established by the competent authorities of each State. Divers must be holders of the following documents: (a) diving licence, (b) a valid medical examination certificate, and (c) a valid insurance cover.
10. The Skipper of a vessel shall hold a valid and applicable skipper licence.
11. Scientific observers and scientists may be placed on board a vessel during a fishing trip. The expenses for observer deployment shall be borne by the promoter. All data gathered by an Observer shall be kept under the custody of the authority of the JMA.
12. All vessels shall be equipped with an operational communication system (VHF, Satellite phone) to report any incidents.
13. All vessels shall be equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which shall be operational throughout the trip, reporting its position to the respective vessel monitoring centres.
14. Vessels fitted with an AIS (Automatic Identification System) set shall transmit the following AIS data at regular intervals: the identification of the vessel; the most recent geographical position of the vessel; the date and time of the fixing of such position of the vessel; and the speed and course of the vessel.
15. Vessels may be equipped with the Electronic Catch Reporting System (ERS) to report catch and effort data on a daily basis. In the absence of ERS, the daily catch report may be sent by electronic mail.
16. Any promoter interested in harvesting authorised species shall apply for a licence through the established channel of the respective fisheries authorities. Respective fisheries authorities shall notify the Joint Commission prior to licensing.

17. The licence for harvesting authorised species shall be non-transferable. The sale or charter of a vessel authorised under a licence shall not entail a transfer of this licence.
18. Prior to departure, the list of certified and authorised divers on-board a vessel shall be submitted to the respective fisheries authorities together with any clearance as may be required.
19. Port of departure, entry and landing as authorised shall not be modified. There shall be no stopover unless force majeure, in which case all concerned authorities shall be immediately notified.
20. Trans-shipment at sea shall not be allowed. Mothership operation is prohibited. However, a licensed schooner type vessel may carry two (2) dories (less than 5m).
21. The Skipper shall implement a garbage storage and disposal system.
22. The vessel and the catch shall be made available for inspection prior to authorisation to land the catch.
23. Duly filled in logbooks with complete information on catch species, effort and fishing positions shall be submitted to the respective fisheries authorities prior to landing of the catch. All data collected during the campaign, including duly filled in dive logs for each diver, shall also be submitted.
24. No damage shall be caused to the marine ecosystems (corals, any marine habitats) during harvesting of the authorised species. Any incident during harvesting should be reported in the logbook.
25. Skippers shall attend a training session on how to fill in the logbooks prior to undertaking the first fishing trip. The Skipper shall fill in the logbooks provided by the respective fisheries authorities on a daily basis or as and when required.
26. Divers shall undergo a training session for identification of sea cucumber species and their importance to the marine ecosystems.
27. Sampling of authorised species (length frequency and biological sampling) may be carried out by the respective fisheries authorities during landing of the catch.
28. The Skipper shall not harvest or retain on board any species other than the authorised species at any time.
29. The Skipper shall not land or otherwise remove any species on board the vessel without the authorisation of the respective fisheries authorities.
30. The vessel owner shall maintain a record of information during each trip. Information shall include: fuel cost and consumption, food and provision cost, vessels sighted in the JMA and any other information that may be required. This information shall be made available to the respective fisheries authorities.
31. Trade-related information on the harvested authorised species is to be submitted to the respective fisheries authorities (market destination, price, species and volume of authorised species processed and type of processing in respect of the catch).

32. Fisheries authorities shall provide copies of all logbooks, data/information, any analysis of data and reports to the Joint Commission.
33. A licence may be revoked if a vessel fails to undertake any activity for a consecutive period of four (4) months.
34. The Joint Commission reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of its approval at any point in time based on stock assessment indicating decline of authorised species being harvested.
35. The Joint Commission may impose specific/additional conditions on a licence to ensure the management and conservation of the resources should the need of these conditions arise.
36. In the event of non-compliance with any of the above conditions or with any provisions of any law regulating fisheries, without prejudice to any other sanction provided by law, the catch in the licensed vessel may be forfeited, the licence revoked and not renewed.

4. Client's requirements

Interested parties will be required to provide the following in their submission:

- Proposal and methodology for sea cucumber fishing activities
- Business/Company documents including Certificate of Incorporation, Memorandum and Articles of Association (if applicable)
- Details on storage, processing and market destination
- Valid fishing licence for operators
- Certification in accordance with national standards for divers
- All necessary permits for operating vessels at sea including valid skipper licence
- Experience in offshore fisheries
- Adherence to the list of conditions for sea cucumber fisheries

5. Expected Deliverables

- Sustainable exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the JMA and submission of exploration report/results.

6. Proposed Timeline

- Licence for harvesting authorised species shall be for an initial fishing period of three (3) months, renewable on a quarterly basis up to maximum of one year for the respective fisheries authorities to gather sufficient data to assess the stock and establish a Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

- Each vessel is only allowed to undertake a total of 6 fishing trips annually and each fishing trip shall be limited to a maximum period of 18 days, excluding travelling to fishing grounds and return to the port of departure.