

# FISHERYPROGRESS.ORG

## Qualifications for Comprehensive FIP Consultants

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FisheryProgress requires that comprehensive FIPs' pre-assessment, workplans, and independent evaluations (required every three years for comprehensive FIPs) are conducted by a party experienced with applying the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard (e.g., a [registered MSC technical consultant](#) or [accredited conformity assessment body](#) or has other demonstrated qualifications approved by the reviewer).

The following clarifies the third category – those with other demonstrated qualifications. It establishes criteria that [FisheryProgress.org](#) will use to determine if a consultant has the demonstrated qualifications necessary to complete an MSC pre-assessment, workplan, or a comprehensive FIP's independent evaluation of activity results and performance against the MSC Fisheries Standard.

| Qualification                          | Demonstrated by  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. General Eligibility Criteria</b> | Meeting <u>at least one</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University degree in fisheries, marine conservation biology, natural resources, environmental management, or relevant field (e.g., economics, mathematics, statistics);<br/><b>OR</b></li><li>• At least 3 years management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, natural resources, or environmental management position.</li></ul> |
| <b>2. Fishery Experience</b>           | Qualifying in <u>at least one</u> of the following areas of fishery expertise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fish stock assessment:</b> at least 3 years of experience as a leader in the production of peer-reviewed stock assessments;<br/><b>OR</b></li><li>• <b>Fish stock biology/ecology:</b> at least 3 years of experience working in fisheries biology and population dynamics;<br/><b>OR</b></li></ul>                            |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fishing impacts on aquatic ecosystems:</b> at least 3 years of experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of fisheries impacts on aquatic ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Fishery management and operations:</b> at least 3 years of experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery policy analyst.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>3. Understanding of the FIP Process</b></p>        | <p>Completed <b>all</b> Interactive Courses included in <a href="#">WWF's Fishery Improvement Projects (FIP) Online Training</a> (evidence: screenshot of 100% for each course)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p>Having co-authored to at least <b>two FIP workplans</b> that meet the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions' Guidelines for Supporting Fishery Improvement Projects.</p>  |
| <p><b>4. Understanding of MSC Fisheries Standard</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have attended an MSC advanced 5-day "Working towards MSC" certification Capacity Building Workshop (also known as level 2) in full AND successfully completed the <a href="#">online assessor training modules</a> for the latest version of the MSC Fisheries Standard (evidence: certificate of completion);</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have undertaken a minimum of 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years AND successfully completed the <a href="#">online assessor training modules</a> for the latest version of the MSC Fisheries Standard (evidence: certificate of completion);</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Is currently listed on the <a href="#">MSC's Register</a> as a technical consultant or associate technical consultant.</li> </ul> |

**Communication, Stakeholder Facilitation, and Project Management Skills (*desirable*)**

FisheryProgress also recommends the following background:

- Experience applying various interviewing and facilitation techniques.
- Experience engaging with stakeholders in fisheries management, science, or fisheries policy development on a range of fisheries and resource sustainability issues.
- Record of consultancy work, project development, and management.