



15 February 2019

## **Peer Reviewer Shortlist Consultation for the Usufuku Honten Northeast Atlantic Longline Bluefin Tuna Fishery**

The MSC's Peer Review College has compiled a shortlist of potential peer reviewers to undertake the peer review for the [Usufuku Honten Northeast Atlantic longline bluefin tuna fishery](#), which is in its first assessment process with the Conformity Assessment Body Control Union Pesca Ltd. Two peer reviewers will be selected from the following list:

- Joe Powers
- John Neilson
- Kevin Stokes
- Paul Medley
- Susana Sainz-Trápaga

A summary of their experience and qualifications is included on the following pages. Further details of their experience are available on request by email to the [Peer Review College](#).

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on potential conflicts of interest of the shortlisted reviewers with the fishery to the Peer Review College by email, telephone or post at the number and address below.

For further details and background to the Peer Review College, please visit the MSC's [Program Improvements website](#).

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The deadline for responses to the consultation is **17:00 GMT, 10 days from the publication date of this announcement on the MSC's website.**

### Joe Powers

Dr Joe Powers has been involved in fisheries issues for more than 40 years, conducting stock assessments, coordinating international stock assessment research, communicating scientific advice to fishery management councils and commissions and also serving as the senior marine fisheries manager in the southeast US. His background includes: Professor of Marine Resource Assessment at Louisiana State University; Senior Stock Assessment Scientist of the US's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) southeast region, Laboratory Director of a NMFS facility; lead US scientist for Atlantic tuna, swordfish and billfish species for the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Chair of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT; Chair of the Stock Assessment Committee for Southern Bluefin Tuna; Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. He has also worked on numerous Marine Stewardship Council assessments of tunas, swordfish, hake and other fisheries resources in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

### John Neilson

Dr John D. Neilson is an internationally-recognized fisheries scientist, who has published more than 200 scientific and technical papers. His studies have taken place on all three of Canada's coasts, as well as throughout the Atlantic Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea. His work is highly cited (eight papers cited > 100 times), with one included in the top 100 cited papers in fisheries science.

His specialties include population ecology, age and growth, and stock assessment. He is considered by his peers to have good skills in consensus building, and he have taken on demanding and high profile roles chairing Canada's National Marine Mammal Peer Review Committee (2000-2003), and coordinating all swordfish stock assessments conducted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (2003 - 2013). He also has experience as a scientific editor. He also has considerable experience with fisheries development work, having conducted a two year long mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where he mentored national biologists, and helped to establish a regional program of data collection and stock assessment in the Eastern Caribbean. Thus, he has a broad range of experience with stock assessments ranging from data rich to data poor situations.

Although now retired from the Canadian federal government after a 30 year long career, he remains involved with voluntary scientific work (including serving on Canada's national committee dealing with species at risk (marine fish), community initiatives, and fisheries consultancies with clients including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the European Community, and the US Center for Independent Experts.

### Kevin Stokes

Dr Kevin Stokes is a fisheries science, management, and policy consultant with extensive international experience. He has worked at senior management levels in public and private sectors as a scientist, manager, and advisor. Before going to New Zealand, he was responsible for all finfish monitoring, assessment and advice in England and Wales, serving as chair of the ECSTECF and as UK representative on the ICES ACFM. He served on multiple UK research councils, led the UK scientific delegation to and served as UK Alternate Commissioner to the IWC. Dr Stokes also worked as Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council for 9 years, responsible for science policy and process and advice on all fisheries matters. He has worked on a wide range of fisheries and environmental issues and has provided advice nationally and internationally at senior government and non-government levels. Since 2008, he has worked as a consultant on fisheries, governance and other issues. He has worked across the globe providing technical reviews, programme review and design, certification assessment, governance review and design, Ecological Risk Assessment design, and sustainability advice.

In 2007 Dr Stokes participated in the MSC Quality and Consistency project, reviewing advice on development of the new P1 CR, and as part of the group that led development of the P2 and P3 CR. He has undertaken numerous MSC pre-assessments as well as acting as an assessor, auditor, and peer reviewer for certification assessments ranging from prawns to tunas.

### Paul Medley

Dr Paul Medley's experience is primarily mathematical modelling of fisheries, including data acquisition to fit and test models, with the objective of providing scientific advice to fishery management. Many projects have provided stock assessments primarily using Bayesian methods for data limited fisheries, such as tuna, spiny lobster, conch, shrimp, squid, octopus and pelagics. He has been an invited expert for many stock assessment working group meetings and independent stock assessment peer reviews.

Dr Medley has an in-depth understanding of the MSC methodology, having been involved in developing the MSC certification system as well as applying the method in a wide range of MSC pre- and full assessments, including on pelagic fish, groundfish and crustaceans for the North Atlantic, Barents Sea, North and South Pacific, Antarctic and East Asia. He has also been involved in fishery improvement projects, including for UK, Suriname, Bahamas, India, Madagascar and Guyana fisheries.

### Susana Sainz-Trápaga

Dr Susana Sainz-Trápaga has a PhD in fisheries oceanography from the University of Tokyo where she graduated in 1998. In 2000 she completed eight years of research in the same university with a post-doctoral position. She then moved to Europe (France and Germany) to work in the academic field focused on fisheries management and policy. From 2006 to 2015, she worked for the Mediterranean Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) where she coordinated the Mediterranean fisheries team in the region. Projects were mostly devoted to achieve a sustainable fishing activity in the region by advising administrations and stakeholders on sustainable management solutions for Mediterranean fisheries. She was permanently involved in an active collaboration with administrations, scientists and the fisheries sector and strongly promoted successful co-management experiences. From 2013 to 2015 she was vice-president of the EU's Mediterranean Advisory Council. From September 2016 until November 2017 she worked as advisor for the Directorate General for Fisheries of the Government of Catalonia. During this period, she worked in the development of innovative management strategies for Catalanian fisheries, and also facilitated the dialogue between the fisheries sector, scientists and the administrations to achieve a robust proposal to revert the critical situation of the hake fishery shared by Spanish and French fishermen.

Dr Sainz-Trápaga's first direct experience with MSC was in 2008, when her WWF team facilitated the pre-assessment of a bluefin tuna trap fishery in Spain. Later, in 2014, she participated in a MSC course about the Certification Requirements Version 2.0 given at WWF-Spain.