



Impacts Research Design: call for proposals (IFFO RS)

IFFO RS, the Global Standard for Responsible Supply (IFFO RS) is the leading independent business to business certification programme for the production of marine ingredients. Our vision is that all marine ingredients will be produced responsibly and we enable marine ingredient producers to demonstrate this to all stakeholders. Our Theory of Change can be found [here](#).

In 2018, IFFO RS became an Associate Member of ISEAL and in order to better understand the impacts of the standard, collect data and ensure the standard is credible, we are commissioning regular impacts reports to demonstrate how our standard is impacting the environmental and social situation of marine ingredient factories. We are therefore calling for proposals to help us develop a research methodology, including determining metrics, to investigate the following hypothesis:

‘IFFO RS activities lead to improved or protected environmental parameters, and improved or protected social conditions’.

The initial stage of the project will be to develop an impact research design, integrated with IFFO RS systems and assurance processes, which will allow important environmental and social metrics to be measured and analysed in order to determine the tangible impact of the IFFO RS standard. The second stage of the project will be to collect baseline data based on the metrics identified in the initial project. The combination of these two stages will provide a strong foundation for commissioning impact reports in the future and also demonstrate to stakeholders that we are committed to transparency and improving the IFFO RS certification programme.

The problem

There are currently no set metrics to measure the impact of a marine ingredient standard on local or regional environmental and social factors. In order to demonstrate that the IFFO RS standard is impacting these in a positive way and improving over time, suitable metrics need to be identified and measured using appropriate methods. At present, the IFFO RS standard includes requirements for environmental and social accountability rather than performance.

What are we trying to achieve?

IFFO RS are looking to develop a methodology that allows defined (SMART) environmental and social metrics to be affordably measured on a regular basis with the aim of making data collection a routine practice within the IFFO RS programme.

The following questions should be explored within the project:

- Which historic environmental and social metrics are available from marine ingredient production facilities?
- What relevant data can be collected from the systems already in place (e.g. audit data)?
- What different scenarios will allow relevant environmental and social metrics to be collected efficiently within the IFFO RS system from marine ingredient production facilities?
- What is the best, affordable approach to collect environmental and social data?
- What confounding variables might there be?
- What techniques can be used to minimise external factors, and facilitate attribution of observed impacts to IFFO RS’s activities?



- What implications are there for the IFFO RS standard, assurance processes, and other practical aspects?
- What might be the unintended effects of this data collection process?
- Are there any impacts associated with the line of influence (i.e. indirect influence of the standard) in the IFFO RS ToC that can be measured?
- Are there any relevant common metrics used by other ISEAL members or other similar standard programmes?

What are we looking for in a consultant?

We are looking for a consultant that has a good understanding of how standards work, the assurance processes associated with standards, and is able to develop a project aligned with these. Previous experience working on methodology development and projects working with a wide variety of data would be an advantage. Knowledge of ISEAL, specifically the Impacts code ([found here](#)) is important for ensuring this project complies and is integrated within the IFFO RS systems. Specific knowledge of the seafood supply chain is desirable.

Who else will be involved?

For this project it is important to work closely with the Certification Bodies approved by IFFO RS as changes in their processes may be necessary to allow for effective data collections. It will also be important to work with certified sites that are willing to help with the project in order to collect data related to certification improvements. Also vital will be to work with those on the IFFO RS Improver Programme or working towards the Improver Programme or certification as these sites are not currently certified and can provide baseline data to measure improvements against. At this stage, some detailed discussions with site owners would be a useful way to gain an understanding of their systems, what data they have to collect already and answer any questions they may have.

It will also be important to contact local authorities and/ or governments, universities/ research institutes and relevant NGO's with local knowledge, access to equipment and resources, and which might develop research projects in collaboration to spread cost and/or capacity.

What we expect out of it?

At the end of the first stage of the project we expect practicable, affordable guidance on how to gather data to allow assessment of IFFO RS's environmental and social impacts attributable to IFFO RS ([IFFO RS Theory of Change](#)). This may be one set of global metrics or it may include any applicable local metrics as well. The report should also comment on potential resource requirements for data collection for different options (related to phase 2). As part of this we will expect a report (max. 20 pages, including executive summary, plus annexes) and executive summary on the methodology design and an overview of any metrics that we should measure that are currently not readily available. The consultant will also be required to present their findings to the IFFO RS team at a closing meeting, either in person at IFFO RS's London office or remotely. The first stage of the project should be completed no later than 23rd September 2019.

At the end of the second stage of the project we will expect a report (length TBC) compiling all the baseline data collected, initial analysis of these data indicating trends and gaps and an evaluation of the methodology used. Both reports, or a condensed version of the reports, must be suitable for public release. Confidential data can be redacted before release but the outcomes of the project must be transparent. A final presentation on the second stage of the project should also be presented to the IFFO RS team.



IFFO RS's responsibilities

IFFO RS will provide a training session on the IFFO RS programme, its systems and assurance processes. We will also brief the consultant on various stakeholder views and provide relevant contact information. IFFO RS will provide existing data on marine ingredient production facilities in identified regions including certification status and production volumes as well as the database of Non-conformities from back-dated audits. We can also provide a survey platform if that is a useful tool.

Practicalities

How to apply

To apply for this project, please submit:

1. Your proposal and budget for phase one of the project.
The proposal should include a rough work plan for both stages of the project with the number of days work necessary and with a break in the middle to allow for further discussion based on the initial stage results.
2. Indicate whether you would potentially be interested in implementing phase two (data collection),
3. CVs and any examples of relevant experience.

To submit a proposal for this project or to request further information please email Nicola Clark, the IFFO RS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Coordinator at nclark@iffors.com. Deadline for questions is 27th March and all answers will be provided on the IFFO RS website here (<https://www.iffors.com/iffo-rs-impacts-call-proposals>).

How a proposal will be selected

After the submission deadline, all the proposals will be reviewed and three will be shortlisted for the second round. The consultants will be invited to the IFFO RS office or an online call arranged (depending on convenience) in order to present their proposal and answer follow up questions.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting initial proposals is Friday 12th April 2019.

Second round presentations will be arranged for Friday 17th May 2019.

A final decision will be made by Thursday 23rd May 2019 with an aim to start the project shortly after.

Timelines

It is expected that the first part of the project (methodology and metrics identification) will take approx. 3 to 4 months with an aim to be completed no later than 23rd September 2019. This will result in a number of options/ scenarios for data collection as part of or alongside the audit process.

It is expected that the second stage of the project (baseline data collection) should take approx. 6 months.

Budget

First stage: £10-12,000

This is a desk-based exercise and no travel is anticipated as part of this work.