



Economic Research Consultant Recruitment Pack

Job Title	Economic Research Consultant
Duration	The research project would be completed by 31 March 2023, with an earlier completion date much preferred.
Fee	The total budget available is £9,000.
Location	Remote working within the UK.
Application	The closing date for this position is 23:59 on 13 Nov 2022. Interested and qualified candidates should submit a CV and covering letter to HR@crustaceancompassion.org , detailing how your experience and skills fit the assignment. Please include your daily quote for the work within the budget and time allowed.

Job description and research aims

Crustacean Compassion is a not-for-profit animal welfare organisation which campaigns for the humane treatment of decapod crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, prawns and langoustines, based on scientific evidence of their sentience. Whilst some legal protections do exist, in the most part decapod crustaceans, as invertebrates, are not adequately covered under animal welfare legislation.

An important part of our work is our campaign for decapod crustaceans to be included in animal welfare legislation and we were successful in seeing decapod crustaceans included in the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022, which has led to increased public and industry interest in decapod welfare issues. Despite our small size we have attracted significant public, political and media attention to the ongoing campaign to improve welfare standards for decapod crustaceans in the food supply chain and beyond.

Current position

We recognise that the shellfish industry can have a valuable role to play in driving welfare improvements across the sector, and that businesses, as well as animals, can benefit from animal welfare initiatives. Indeed, we know that a number of leading fishery organisations and seafood businesses are willing to take active steps to help meet increasing consumer and political demand for the welfare protection of decapod crustaceans, and that some are conducting their own research in this area.

Crustacean Compassion has therefore identified a need for a sound economic business case for the benefits of improved welfare policies and an understanding of what economic challenges food businesses might face in implementing such policies.

Research aims

We want to investigate the financial benefits and challenges that would result for seafood supply chain businesses through the adoption of higher animal welfare policies for decapods as specified by Crustacean Compassion. This research project should explore the specific economic impacts (positive and negative) that such policies would have on businesses throughout the supply chain.

The research should enable Crustacean Compassion to demonstrate:

- A keen grasp of the current costs involved in the capture, transportation, holding and processing of decapods.
- Specific quantitative assessments of the economic and logistical impacts of switching to higher welfare practices (on a 'typical' basis).
- A clear understanding of any obstacles to adopting such policies.
- A strong position from which to help industry identify innovations and compromises that will bring either beneficial or cost-neutral impacts to their businesses.
- The ability to identify areas where Crustacean Compassion's desired improvements may not be commercially possible and may need to be reassessed.
- Case studies of real-life companies (anonymised if required) that have achieved commercial advantage (or disadvantage) from adopting higher welfare policies.

The research will explore key considerations within the following areas:

- Economic demographics of the UK fishing industry: Detailed breakdown of national and regional figures relating to catch landings, revenues and other economic profiles.
- Capture and handling: Assessment of the relative cost burdens and benefits of various capture methods and practices.
- Live transportation and exports: Economic impacts versus other costs associated with the transportation of live decapods.
- Stunning and slaughter practices: Analysis of the economic challenges and opportunities relating to technological advances in stunning and slaughter methods.
- Live decapod sales: Overview of the current market in live sales of decapod species to UK consumers.
- Aquaculture: Review of the economic impacts of higher animal welfare policies on the aquaculture sector and wider supply chain.
- International markets: Decapod crustacean welfare legislation in countries/regions around the world and resulting impacts on trade.

Deliverables

- An evaluation report for the preliminary scoping phase (Phase 1)
- A fully referenced research report (Phase 2)

Person specification

We are looking for a research consultant with expertise and industry access to be able to conduct market research into the UK shellfish market.

- Expertise in commercial food business, particularly in animal products, and preferably in aquatic animal produce
- Ability to gain access to specialist market data from relevant shellfish organisations and agencies
- A proven track record in analysing published data and statistics
- Experience in compiling clear reports, accessible to a non-specialist audience
- Good numerical, analytical and problem-solving skills
- Methodical and well-organised, with the ability to complete projects to time and on budget
- An interest in animal welfare is preferable

How to apply

- Interested and qualified candidates should submit a CV and covering letter to HR@crustaceancompassion.org, detailing your suitability for the post and stating when you may be able to take up the position if offered.
- Please include your daily quote for the work within the budget and time allowed.
- The closing date for this position is 23:59 on 13 Nov 2022.
- Interviews will take place online over Microsoft Teams between 16 and 25 Nov 2022.