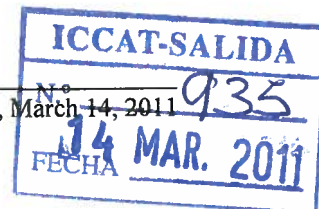




Madrid, March 14, 2011



**ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0935 / 2011**

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN 2011**

With a view to the successful implementation of the Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin tuna in 2011-12, the Secretariat would like to highlight some requirements of the programme. All CPCs involved in purse seine fishing, farming or processing of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna are therefore invited to take note of the relevant sections of this circular, which contains the following:

**1. Requests for information required for implementation of the ROP-BFT**

- Total number of vessels/farms requiring observers
- Type of video viewing equipment available on each vessel
- Type of communication equipment available on each vessel

**2. Requests for assistance in the implementation of the ROP-BFT**

- Assistance with customs and immigration clearance
- Assistance with biological samples - access to fish on processing vessels

**3. Information on actions required, funds to be lodged and procedures to be followed**

**A. VESSELS**

- Lodgement of funds
- Requesting an observer
- Embarkation/disembarkation of observers
- Signing of the revised MoU – Health and Safety requirements

**B. FARMS**

- Lodgement of funds
- Requesting an observer
- Requesting extensions/changes to observer deployments

**4. Invitations to technical meetings and training sessions**

- Technical meeting – ICCAT Secretariat
- Training sessions –May – various venues

**1. Requests for information required for implementation of the ROP-BFT**

**1.1 Total number of vessels/farms requiring observers**

-The Secretariat and consortium are currently operating under the information contained in the fishing plans endorsed by the Compliance Committee. Notwithstanding, the final number of vessels requiring observers is needed as soon as possible as well as the names of such vessels, in order to be able to budget for the actual number of vessels and to keep costs as low as possible.

-CPCs which have not already done so are requested to inform the Secretariat of the number of farms requiring observers in 2011-12. The names/ICCAT numbers of these farms should be communicated to the Secretariat by **28 March 2011**.

**1.2 Observer access to and viewing of video records**

-Under article 95 Recommendation 10-04 CPCs are required to ensure that video records are made available to ICCAT ROP-BFT observers following all transfers of tuna between purse seiners and towing cages, and between towing cages and farm cages; and at time of release of tuna. This will facilitate ICCAT ROP-BFT observers quantify the amount of tuna transferred or released. Copies of all videos should be provided to the observer.

-We should be grateful if each CPC could confirm that purse seine vessels will be equipped with **suitable video viewing facilities**, including appropriate software which is compatible with the format of the video record of the transfer or release of tuna. Those vessels which cannot ensure suitable video viewing equipment will be required to lodge additional funds for the purchase of such equipment.

### ***1.3 Vessel communications***

Observers deployed on purse seiners under the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) 2011/2012 will be required to report to the observer supplier company according to paragraph 7 a)i of Annex 7 of Recommendation 10-04. Therefore we would be grateful if CPCs could indicate the type of communication facilities (fax, email, radio, etc.) which will be available for use by observers on a vessel by vessel basis.

## **2. Requests for assistance in the implementation of the ROP-BFT**

### ***2.1 CPC assistance for clearing customs***

-In order to facilitate observer deployments, the assistance of CPCs may be necessary so that observers and their equipment clear customs and border controls in a timely and efficient manner to avoid any delays to deployment being incurred.

All participating CPCs are therefore requested to issue a letter to observers embarking on purse seiners prior to deployment. The letter should set out the following details:

- The name of the observer and their ICCAT observer number
- Role of the observer and the name of the Programme
- The name of the vessel on which the observer will be deployed on and its ICCAT Record number
- The name of the port of embarkation
- A list of specific equipment issued to the observer for use during the ROP-BFT, namely:
  - Camera
  - SD card for the camera
  - Personal Floatation Device
  - Waterproof jacket and trousers
  - Hard Hat
  - Tape Measure
  - Immersion Suit
  - Clipboards
  - Binoculars
  - Emergency Personal Indicator Response Beacon (EPIRB)
  - Strobe Light
  - Signal Mirror

-The letter should also contain a telephone contact number of a CPC official(s) that can be contacted should any difficulties clearing customs be encountered that could result in delays to fishing operations. A model letter can be provided by the Secretariat on request.

-Observers will be designated to purse seiners during training and the relevant information forwarded to CPCs as far in advance as possible. CPCs should return the letter to the observer supply company at [bft-rop@mrag.co.uk](mailto:bft-rop@mrag.co.uk) in order to be issued to individual observers prior to observer mobilisation.

### ***2.2 Assistance with biological sampling - access to fish on processing vessels***

-Observers deployed at farms for harvesting operations are often stationed on the processing vessels, which allows for a more accurate determination of the quantity of fish harvested. CPCs are requested to instruct all owners/operators of processing vessels to allow the observers access to the fish in order to take size samples, and to collect tag information and hard parts (otoliths, spinal cords and small genetic samples) where possible. Observers will be instructed to carry out their tasks in a way which does not harm the product and causes minimum disruption to the processing operations

### 3. Information on actions required, funds to be lodged and procedures to be followed

#### A. VESSELS

##### 3.A.1. Lodgement of funds

###### 3.A.1.1 Recruitment and training

-The consortium has indicated that they expect quite a high level of take-up from observers trained in 2010. Given that Recommendation 10-04 has additional requirements, and to reinforce the training for counting fish from video records, the 2010 observers will undergo a reduced complementary training course. The exact number of newly recruited observers has not been determined. However, any savings on reduced training will be passed to those vessels which participated in the ROP-BFT in 2010. **Vessel participating in the ROP for the first time in 2011 should lodge, by 28 March 2011, the initial payment of €7,500.** In the event that any additional funds are required from vessel which participated in the 2010 season, this will be communicated as soon as possible. Vessels which are unable to provide adequate video viewing facilities for observers should lodge an additional **€1,132** for the purchase of such equipment for the observer.

###### 3.A.1.2 Mobilisation and associated costs

-The mobilisation cost will be the same as 2010. This amount includes cost of travel, travel days, briefing and, debriefing. In the event that actual costs are lower than those anticipated and funds remain unspent, the residue can be reimbursed to the vessel owner. Vessels wishing to embark an observer during the forthcoming fishing season must lodge **€5,000** before **16 April 2011**.

###### 3.A.1.3 Deployment days

-The cost of deployment days for vessels has been reduced in 2011 to **€260** per day. All vessels must lodge sufficient monies to cover **the full amount of days** during which the observer is on board, even if deployment dates fall outside the fishing season. The deployment request form in Excel has been amended to automatically calculate the number of days and amount to be lodged based on the dates entered (dd/mm/yyyy). Lodgement should be made before **16 April 2011**. In the event that initial schedules are revised, and the vessel owner wishes to request a longer period of observation, this request, accompanied by any additional necessary funds must be received a minimum of four working days before observer embarkation.

##### 3.A.2. Requesting an observer

-Initial observer requests should be received by the Secretariat from the authorities of each Contracting Party on the *REQUEST FOR OBSERVER DEPLOYMENT ON BFT PURSE SEINE VESSEL* form. The request form, available at <http://www.iccat.int/en/ROPbft.htm> should be fully completed before submission to [ROP\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:ROP_info@iccat.int). Any changes to the dates initially indicated can be sent directly by the vessel owners to the implementing consortium, with a copy to the Secretariat and the national authority contact. In order to guarantee observer coverage, such changes should be received at least 96 hours in advance.

-The following information must be included in the transfer instructions.

- a) ICCAT Vessel number (available on the ICCAT Web site)
- b) Name of Vessel
- c) Concept (recruitment and training /mobilization and associated costs /sea-day costs)

The above information is essential for assigning funds correctly to each vessel.

When lodgement is made to the ICCAT account, a copy of the swift/ transfer receipt should be sent by email to the Secretariat to [ROP\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:ROP_info@iccat.int). Lodgements should be made to the ICCAT ROP-BFT account:

- Name of the bank: Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA)
- Address of branch: Pso. Recoletos, 10 ala sur pl. 1, 28001 – Madrid (Spain)
- Precise name of the account holder: Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT)

- Full account number (including bank codes): 0182 2370 46 0201518869
- IBAN (or BIC code if not applicable): IBAN: ES91 0182 2370 4602 0151 8869 / BIC: BBVAESMM

**No observers will be assigned until the Secretariat has confirmation that the corresponding funds have been lodged.**

### ***3.A.3. Embarkation/disembarkation of observers***

All observers must embark and disembark in the same port, which should be designated at the time of making the request for observer.

### ***3.A.4. Re-signing of the MoU - Safety Standards on Vessels***

All purse seiners receiving observers during the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) 2011/2012 will be required to have the following safety equipment onboard as a mandatory condition for accepting an observer:

- Life raft(s)
  - Possess a valid certificate of maintenance; and
  - Be of sufficient capacity for the number of personnel onboard
- Life jackets compliant with SOLAS standards and in sufficient numbers for the number of personnel onboard
- Vessel Emergency Personal Indicator Response Beacon (EPIRB) or Search and Rescue Transponder (SART)

The designated observer will be required to check the presence of these items prior to embarkation. If any of these items are absent, and/or be of insufficient quantity or capacity and/or do not possess valid maintenance certificates, the observer will not embark on the vessel until the appropriate corrective action has been taken. This requirement will be incorporated into a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the vessel owner and the consortium, which will be circulated to CPCs and made available on the ICCAT web site as soon as it has been finalized.

## **B. FARMS**

### ***3.B.1. Lodgement of funds***

#### ***3.B.1.1 Recruitment and training***

-While it is hoped that many of the observers trained in 2010 and those trained for deployment on purse seiners in 2011 can be deployed on farms, some provision for training will be required. For farms participating in the ROP-BFT in previous years, this amount will be communicated shortly, together with information on balances remaining in this chapter from 2010. For those farms participating for the first time in 2011, the amount of **€7,700** should be lodged by **28 March 2011**.

#### ***3.B.1.2 Mobilization***

-The Secretariat has examined the possibility of reducing these costs, but given the uncertain nature of the dates of farm deployments which results in some cases continual changes of travel arrangements, no substantial reductions from mobilization fee required for deployments in 2011 can be made. Each deployment will therefore require a mobilization fee of **€5,000**. For farms requesting deployments of longer than 90 days, a mobilization fee will be required for each 90 day period in order to rotate the observer.

#### ***3.B.1.3 Deployment***

-There is no change in the cost of deployment days from 2010. If the farm does not provide accommodation, this fee is **€354.3 per day**. If accommodation is provided, this is **€286.3 per day**. To avoid confusion, the request form has been modified to automatically calculate the number of days and the amount to be lodged.

### **3.B.2. Requesting and observer**

Initial observer requests should be received by the Secretariat from the authorities of each Contracting Party on the *REQUEST FOR OBSERVER DEPLOYMENT ON BFT FARMING FACILITIES* form. The request form, available at <http://www.iccat.int/en/ROPbft.htm> should be fully completed before submission to [ROP\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:ROP_info@iccat.int). Any changes to the dates initially indicated can be sent directly by the farm owners to the implementing consortium, with a copy to the Secretariat and the national authority contact. In order to guarantee observer coverage, such changes should be received at least 96 hours in advance.

The following information must be included in the transfer instructions.

- a) ICCAT FFB number (available on the ICCAT Web site)
- b) Name of Farm
- c) Concept (recruitment and training /mobilization and associated costs /farm-day costs)

The above information is essential for assigning funds correctly to each farm.

When lodgement is made to the ICCAT account, a copy of the swift/ transfer receipt should be sent by email to the Secretariat to [ROP\\_info@iccat.int](mailto:ROP_info@iccat.int). Lodgements should be made to the ICCAT ROP-BFT account:

- Name of the bank: Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA)
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BIC: BBVAESMM

**No observers will be assigned until the Secretariat has confirmation that the corresponding funds have been lodged.**

### **3.B.3. Requesting extensions/changes to observer deployments**

In 2010, the Secretariat (and the consortium) has had great difficulty meeting farm requirements for observers due to the late receipt of requests for extensions and changes. For the coming period all requests for extensions and changes must be submitted to the Secretariat **at least 96 hours in advance together with the proof of payment of the additional funds required**. For deployment requests which have already been authorized by the Contracting Party of the farm, the farm should send its request for extension (or change) with proof of payment to the consortium, **with a copy to the Secretariat and the CP authorities**. The CP authorities should inform the Secretariat immediately if they have any objection to the extension.

## **4. Invitations to technical meetings and training sessions**

### **4.1 Technical meeting**

-Representatives from the consortium contracted to implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT) 2011/2012 will be available to discuss Technical components of the Programme with CPCs on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid. We should be grateful if you could indicate whether or not your CPC will attend, and the names of the participants, by **4 April 2011**.

### **4.2 Training sessions**

-The dates and venues of the training sessions for observers on vessels of CPCs whose fishing plans have already been endorsed are scheduled below. To ensure transparency, CPCs may attend training sessions in an observer capacity. CPC representatives wishing to attend these sessions should notify the Secretariat, providing the following details: The name of the official; E-mail contact; the training session they will attend; dates of attendance. We would welcome this information by **15th April 2011**.

This information will be forwarded to the Consortium responsible for implementing the ICCAT ROP-BFT who will provide further details on the venue and the training agenda or of any changes to training plans.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>CPC/Flag State Vessel Coverage</i>
2-6 May	Sete, France	France, Spain
2-6 May	Napoli, Italy	Italy, Croatia, Greece, Malta, Korea
9-13 May	Sfax, Tunisia	Morocco, Tunisia
9-13 May	Alanya, Turkey	Turkey, (Morocco)

We should like to thank you for your cooperation in the implementation of the ROP-BFT.

Driss Meski  
*Executive Secretary*

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