



Madrid, 18 May 2017

**ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3379 / 2017**

**SUBJECT: POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA RESEARCH PROGRAMME  
COORDINATOR (ICCAT GBYP)**

I have the honour to send the attached announcement for a fixed-term position of Coordinator of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Research Programme. The Terms of References for this position are attached to this letter.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this announcement to qualified scientists who might be interested in the position.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



  
Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

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Commission Chairman:	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
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- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attach.: ToR - Position Announcement.**

## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP - Grand Bluefin Year Programme) COORDINATOR

The ICCAT Grand Bluefin Tuna Year Programme (GBYP) was officially adopted by the ICCAT Commission in 2008. Being financed with voluntary contributions, ICCAT GBYP was initiated at the end of March 2010. It was divided in annual Phases, which do not coincide with calendar year. This ambitious initiative aims at improving the Commission's knowledge of Atlantic bluefin tuna in order to better assess its status and therefore improve management of this valuable resource. In 2009, the SCRS identified the priorities of the Research Plan as follows:

1. Improve basic data collection through data mining, developing methods to estimate sizes of fish caged, elaborating accurate CPUE indices for Mediterranean purse seine fleets, development of fisheries-independent information surveys and implementing a large-scale scientific conventional tagging programme;
2. Improve understanding of key biological and ecological processes through electronic tagging experiments to determine habitat and migration routes, broad scale biological sampling of live fish and dead fish landed (e.g. gonads, liver, otoliths, spines, etc.), histological analyses to determine bluefin tuna reproductive state, biological and genetics analyses to investigate mixing and population structure; and ecological processes, including predator-prey relationships;
3. Improve assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status through improved modelling of key biological processes (including growth and stock-recruitment), further developing stock assessment models including mixing among areas, and developing and use of biologically realistic operating models for more rigorous management option testing.

Since then, the Programme's specific objectives have been refined and annual activities defined by the Steering Committee.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The ICCAT GBYP Coordinator position will be a fixed-term contract of one year, but it is anticipated that the contract will be further extended by mutual agreements and depending on the availability of funding. The Coordinator will be under the supervision of the Executive Secretary or his/her Assistant. The Coordinator will work in close contact and in consultation with the ICCAT SCRS Chairman and the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee. The Coordinator will implement, organize and coordinate the activities of the ICCAT GBYP, particularly the following (not necessarily in order of priority):

- Production and/or update of manuals and the protocol for studies (sampling, tagging, etc.);
- Make the necessary arrangements to carry out the programme's plans, including helping in the recruitment of experts as necessary; ensuring that the data collected by the programme are deposited with ICCAT;
- Provide preliminary analyses of the data gathered within the programme; cooperate and promote the involvement of SCRS scientists in the analysis and writing of results from data collected;
- Manage the daily activities of the ICCAT GBYP staff;
- Make the necessary international arrangements so that all the field activities can be carried out smoothly (including arranging permission for research vessels to enter national waters of foreign countries);
- Ensure that the data collected in the Programme are assimilated into ICCAT databases and available to the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Species Group;
- Assist in managing the accounts of the ICCAT GBYP funds and prepare the financial reports, for the Commission and the specific funding partners, on the status and use of the special ICCAT GBYP funds;
- Organize international Symposia on relevant research areas as directed by the Steering Committee; The work of the Coordinator may require extensive travel, namely to those areas where ICCAT GBYP activities take place;
- Coordinate preparation of annual progress reports to the Steering Committee, the SCRS and Commission on Programme activities and plans;



- Order the materials required for all the activities;
- Prepare and promote extensive publicity for the ICCAT GBYP, such as a web page, posters, etc.;
- Prepare the announcements for the Call for tenders of activities defined by the Steering Committee, and the respective contracts between the contractor(s) and ICCAT.

### **Qualifications and Experience – Essential**

- A high degree of experience in fisheries or a closely related field, which could be demonstrated by a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in those fields;
- At least five years of experience in conduct/coordination/supervision of large-scale research programmes on fisheries, preferably on tuna or tuna-like species;
- Budget management experience in large-scale research programmes;
- High degree of knowledge of international fisheries involving shared resources (preferably of tuna or tuna-like species) and fisheries biology and/or ecology and/or management, demonstrated by relevant publications namely in peer-reviewed literature;
- Demonstrated leadership skills in dealing with international technical working groups;
- Ability to work well under pressure and to work effectively and harmoniously with people of different national and cultural backgrounds;
- Applicants should be in good health and have a willingness to travel frequently to countries, entities and fishing entities, including remote areas.

### **Desirable Qualifications**

- Fluency in at least two of the ICCAT official languages (English, French and Spanish);
- Experience in stock assessments and knowledge of population dynamics;
- Practical experience in one or more of the following: biological sampling, conventional and electronic tagging, data mining, aerial surveys, management strategy evaluations and larval surveys.

### **Salary and remunerations**

The position will be classified according to the United Nations Scheme at the Professional Level (P-3) (details to be provided by the Secretariat).

### **Application for the position**

Applications should be submitted only to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following address: driss.meski@iccat.int by **14 July 2017**. Candidates should submit a *Curriculum Vitae*, which should include documented educational background, professional experience, a list of relative published works, as well as three references (two professional and one character reference are preferred).

Mr. Driss Meski (driss.meski@iccat.int)  
 Executive Secretary  
 ICCAT  
 C/ Corazón de Maria 8  
 28002 Madrid  
 SPAIN

Please indicate the earliest time you can start working with the Commission. The position is expected to be filled as early as December 2017. The ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee will review all the applications and report to the ICCAT Executive Secretary. Final appointment will be made by the ICCAT Executive Secretary.

A personal interview may be required as well as a comprehensive medical examination.

The successful candidate will receive a notice of appointment from the Executive Secretary. The starting date of employment will be mutually agreed upon between the successful candidate and the Executive Secretary but should target December 2017.