

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 20 March 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02268/ 2025

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ROP-BFT FOR THE 2025 SEASON

I have the honour to inform you that, following the extension of the contract with the Consortium selected to implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT), the cost of Observers will be as shown in the attachments (**Attachment 2**: vessels; **Attachment 3**: farms/traps). We should be grateful if all CPCs could bring this to the attention of the owners/operators of bluefin tuna purse seiners, farms and/or traps.

As always, the Consortium will make every effort to embark Observers, including ensuring as far as possible that these are of different nationalities to the flag State of the vessel.

Please note that there have been some modifications to prices as compared with 2024, mainly due to increases in observer fees, programme management fees, and per diem rates, including those for accommodation and subsistence. However, the rates for room and hiring equipment have been reduced to better align with actual costs. Therefore, all Operators are requested to ensure that the correct sums are lodged. **Please read carefully the attachments below and make the full required payments within the deadlines. It is of the utmost importance that the vessel/farm/trap for which the lodgement is being made is identified on the bank transfer.**

Please note a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), downloadable from the [ICCAT website](#) has been drawn up by the Consortium and should be signed by all Operators for those vessels, farms or traps participating which did not participate in the programme in 2024. For those who signed the MoU in 2024, it is sufficient to sign the extension to the agreement provided that it lists the vessels/farms/traps. Please see **Attachment 1** for more details.

Many vessels participating in the ROP-BFT have positive balances at the ICCAT Secretariat carried over from the 2024 fishing year. These balances are available on request and can be deducted from the total payment required for 2025 in the case they have been paid by the same Operator. Please cite the ICCAT serial numbers of the vessels for which you request balances, and please **also cite these numbers when making payment**. The ICCAT Secretariat is currently finalising the accounts for the farms/traps and will be informing you of the available amounts as soon as possible. Meanwhile, farms/traps are requested to make the first payment, and if positive balances are found on account closure, such amounts can be deducted from the next deployment following receipt of the information.

We should be grateful if all Request Forms could be filled out **fully**, to include the dates and port of embarkation/disembarkation and include details of the bank account to which any remaining balances should be paid, in the event that any excess is not carried over to the next year. Note that it may not be possible to accommodate late changes to initial requests, particularly changes in port of embarkation, due to visa restrictions.

In order to avoid delays in the importation of equipment, the Consortium will need to know well in advance the exact number of vessels that intend to operate. It is therefore of vital importance that the deadlines are respected and the information in the request is accurate and definitive.



Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary

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Attachments: Instructions for extension agreement of MoU and payment instructions for vessels and/or farms/traps



Attachment 1

The MOU is essential to ensure the safety and adequate living and working conditions of the Observer while deployed. The MoU can be found [here](#). Alternatively, those Operators who had signed the MoU in 2023 or 2024, may wish to sign a one-page agreement of extension found [here](#).

For those Operators signing either the MoU or the Agreement, it is important that they include the Operator's name on the line shown below:

_____ (BFT-E purse seiner/farm/trap operator) (hereafter the operator)

And the names of the vessel(s), farm(s) and/or trap(s) for which they are responsible on the line below:

being responsible for the following vessels, farms and/or traps _____

Please note that one Operator may sign on behalf of any number of vessels, farms and traps for which they are responsible.

Please sign, together with name, position of the signatory, and date on page 8 of the MoU, or at the bottom of the Agreement as relevant.

For the Operator

_____	Signed	_____
_____	Name	_____
_____	Position	_____
_____	Date	_____

For those Operators signing the MoU, it is important that each page (15 in total) is initialled.

Please ensure that the correctly signed MoU or one page Agreement as appropriate is provided to the Consortium no later than two weeks before the expected start date of the fishing season. The deployment of the Observer shall not commence before this MoU, signed by the Operator, has been received by the Supplier. It is the responsibility of the Operator to send the signed copy of the MoU to the Supplier. The Supplier will not be responsible for any delays in the deployment of an Observer due to late signing of the MoU.



Attachment 2

Vessels

For an equitable distribution of costs, the recruitment, training and equipment (start-up) fee for vessels which are participating for the first time, or which participated for the last time in 2021 or prior to 2021, will be **€8,900**. The amount for this concept for returning vessels (i.e. those which participated in 2022 or later) will be **€4,900**.

The rates for mobilisation fees and sea days will be as follows:

Mobilisation fee (vessels): **€4,970**

Vessels - Sea days: **€260** per day

The forms for requesting Observers are available on the ICCAT website [here](#).

Completed forms for Vessels, **together with proof of full payment**, must be received, at the latest by:

- 14 April 2025 for vessels starting 1 May
- 21 April 2025 for vessels starting 15 May
- 28 April 2025 for vessels starting 24 May
- 19 May 2025 for vessels starting 25 June
- 10 June 2025 for vessels starting 1 August onward

Please ensure that vessel request forms are filled out fully, including start and end dates and **port of embarkation/disembarkation**.

Please note that the logistical management costs produced by the Observer placement process will be passed on to the vessels that have made such requests to the ICCAT Secretariat, even if the requests are cancelled.

All 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)
- Exact 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

When making the lodgement, please indicate the **ICCAT Record number of the vessel for which the payment is being made**. A copy of the swift receipt should be sent to the Secretariat together with the request forms.

Please also ensure that a signed copy of the [latest MoU](#) (version 2025) or the [extension agreement](#) if applicable, is sent to the ROP implementing Consortium.



Attachment 3

Farms/Traps

For farms or traps which are participating for the first time or for which the last year of participation was 2021 or years prior to 2021, the recruitment, training and equipment (start-up) fee will be **€8,900**. Lodgements of these amounts for new farms/traps should be paid to the Secretariat by **30 April 2025**. The amount for this concept for returning farms/traps will be **€4,900**. These payments should be made by **15 April 2025**, or at the time of first request for new farms.

The rates for mobilisation fees and farm/traps days will be as follows for all deployments starting after **7 April 2025**:

- Mobilisation fee (farms and traps) **€4,970.00**;
- Farm/trap days (no accommodation provided) €396 per day (minimum 5 days);
- Farm/trap days (accommodation provided) €305 per day (minimum 5 days).

For deployments of less than 5 days, the minimum charge for 5 days at standard rates will apply.

The forms for requesting Observers are available on the ICCAT website [here](#).

Please note that normally, completed forms for farms must reach the ICCAT Secretariat **at least 96 hours** before the deployment is required. This same minimum period of 96 hours is also required for requests for extensions; the Secretariat and CPC authorities should be in copy to all such requests if sent directly to the Consortium, as the Consortium cannot approve such extensions without confirmation from the ICCAT Secretariat. **Notwithstanding, we would kindly ask that all farms submit requests as far in advance as possible, and preferably not less than two weeks in advance, in order to try to ensure coverage and reduce travel costs. This is particularly important in peak travel seasons.**

All 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)
- Exact 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

When making the lodgement, please indicate the **ICCAT Record number of the farm/trap for which the payment is being made**. A copy of the swift receipt should be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat together with the request forms. The initial request should cover the full period required when known. Please note that while the Consortium will attempt to fulfil requests for extensions to the dates initially requested, this cannot be guaranteed in all cases as Observers will be selected according to their availability for the dates initially requested.

Please also ensure that a signed copy of the [latest MoU](#) (version 2025), or a copy of the [extension agreement](#) is sent to the ROP implementing Consortium.