

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, 22 March 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2353 / 2023

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ROP-BFT FOR THE 2023 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 1: Vessels; Attachment 2: Farms/Traps**).

It is expected that, given the improvement in the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel will be less erratic than previous years and hence it is not envisaged that the *force majeure* provisions developed for 2020 to 2022 will be needed, but will be considered in the event that any particular situation so warrants. We should be grateful if all CPCs could inform the Secretariat regarding the particular travel or movement restrictions or any other special requirements either in relation to COVID-19 which may still be in place, particularly with regard to testing requirements, pre-embarkation quarantine and vaccination status which may affect implementation of this programme.

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 where possible.

Note that there have been some modifications to prices as compared with 2022, mainly due to the high increase in travel costs, so 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.**

Please note a revised Memorandum of Understanding, downloadable from the [ICCAT web site](#) has been drawn up by the consortium and should be signed by all operators. Note that if using Google Chrome, it may be necessary to delete history in order to see the 2023 version; 2023 is indicated in the header.

Many vessels participating in the ROP-BFT have positive balances at the Secretariat carried over from the 2022 fishing year. These balances are available on request and can be deducted from the total payment required for 2023. Please cite the ICCAT serial numbers of the vessels for which you request balances, and please **also cite these numbers when making payment**. The 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.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachments: Payment instructions for Vessels and for Farms/Traps



Attachment 1

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 2019 or prior to 2019, will be **€8,900**. The amount for this concept for returning vessels (i.e. those which participated in 2020 or later) will be **€4,900**.

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

Mobilisation fee (vessels): **€4,750**

Vessels - Sea days: **€250** per day

The forms for requesting observers are available on the ICCAT web site at:

<https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/DEPLOYMENT-REQUEST-VESSEL-ENG.xlsx>

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

- 14 April 2023 for vessels starting 1 May
- 21 April 2023 for vessels starting 15 May
- 28 April 2023 for vessels starting 24 May
- 19 May 2023 for vessels starting 25 June
- 10 June 2023 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**.

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 2023), available [here](#), is sent to the ROP implementing consortium.



Attachment 2

FARMS/TRAPS

For farms or traps which are participating for the first time or for which the last year of participation was 2019 or years prior to 2019, 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 2023**. The amount for this concept for returning farms/traps will be **€4,900**. These payments should be made by **15 April 2023**, or at the time of first request for new farms.

The rates for mobilisation fees and farm days / traps days will be as follows for all deployments starting after **7 April 2023**:

- Mobilisation fee (farms and traps) **€4,750.00**
- Farm/trap days (no accommodation provided) €360 per day for deployments of 5+ days (minimum 5 days)
- Farm/trap days (accommodation provided) €285 per day for deployments of 5+ days (minimum 5 days)

For occasional fresh harvests/transfers, a one- or two-day deployment may be requested at the following rates, **in addition to the mobilisation fee**:

- 1 day with no accommodation provided: €763 per day (€763 + €4,750 = €5,513)
- 1 day with accommodation provided by the farm/trap: €684 per day (€684 + €4,750 = €5,434)
- 2 days with no accommodation provided: €559 per day (€1,118 + €4,750 = €5,868)
- 2 days with accommodation provided by the farm/trap: €485 per day (€970 + €4,750 = €5,720)
- For deployments of 3 days and above, a minimum charge of 5 days at standard rates will be applied

Please note that such short-term deployment requests are only applicable to fresh harvest on an exceptional basis and may not be extended. Deployment requests requiring three or more days will be subject to the five-day minimum.

The forms for requesting observers are available on the ICCAT web site at:

https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/DEPLOYMENT-REQUEST-FARM_TRAP-ENG.xlsx

Please note that normally, completed forms for farms must reach the 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 Secretariat. **Given the current situation, we would request 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.**

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)
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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 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 2023), available [here](#), is sent to the ROP implementing consortium