

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, 9 July 2021

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # G-0621/21

**SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 06/2021
BIOLOGICAL STUDIES – SAMPLING FOR ADULTS ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH
PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP – PHASE 11)**

I should like to transmit the Call for Tenders ICCAT 06/2021 - Biological Studies – Sampling for Adults - Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION :

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A. Elekon
Panel 1-4 Chairs			
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair	R. Coelho
- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Call for Tenders 06/2021.

CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 06/2021

BIOLOGICAL STUDIES – SAMPLING FOR ADULTS

ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP – PHASE 11)

A) ICCAT GBYP Background and objectives

One of the main objectives of the ICCAT GBYP is to improve the understanding of key biological and ecological processes for Atlantic bluefin tuna, with the final aim of optimising the management of this important resource. To this end, as part of this Programme, biological sampling of the main bluefin tuna fisheries (i.e., baitboats, purse seine, longline, handline, traps and recreational fisheries) started in 2011. Within the framework of these activities several problems arose for collecting the necessary number of samples to obtain reliable and representative results, particularly for the adult fraction of the bluefin tuna population, since in the Mediterranean Sea, these fish are being transferred directly into cages, where they are kept until they are harvested later.

Therefore, the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee decided in Phase 5 to assess the feasibility of carrying out the sampling activity for adults fished in the main spawning areas at the harvesting in cages. As a result of this evaluation, in the following ICCAT GBYP Phases, several tuna entities that manage farms were contracted to carry out such sampling activities, following the available protocols for samples collection and their preservation in accordance with various research needs (ageing, genetics, microchemistry).

Thus, with the immediate objective of guaranteeing the availability of a sufficient number of biological samples of adult bluefin tuna to cover the requirements of the diverse studies derived from the general objective of improving knowledge on the biology and ecology of the species, and hence of its management, the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee agreed that within the Phase 11 of the ICCAT GBYP Programme these sampling activities should be carried out.

Consequently, this Call for tenders is launched, for public or private entities, be it scientific institutions or interested companies, for the submission of proposals to carry out the full project, or part of it, detailed in the following paragraph.

B) Contractor tasks

The entities hired will conduct sampling of adult bluefin tuna which have been fished in the Balearic Sea, in the southern Tyrrhenian Sea, and in the South-central Mediterranean Sea during the 2021 fishing season and subsequently transferred into farms for their maintenance until harvest, working in close and continuous consultation with the coordination team of the ICCAT GBYP programme.

Although ICCAT Recommendation 11-06 provides the means to ensure better conditions while carrying out biological and genetic sampling activities in international waters and those under jurisdiction of coastal States, most of which are ICCAT CPCs, each entity will be responsible for all necessary agreements with local authorities when carrying out sampling within national jurisdictions. The biological samples collected will be property of the ICCAT GBYP at the end of the contract. In the meantime, the entity shall provide appropriate storage for any biological samples and hard parts collected, following the system already adopted in previous phases.

The Contractor(s) shall be responsible for duly recording the data for each sample, duly labelling each sample according to the established protocols, as well as delivering the samples and the data files at the end of the contract to the entity in charge of storing and analyzing the samples indicated therein. The data file shall also be provided to ICCAT GBYP.

The number of bluefin tunas from which valid biological samples will be obtained for each area of origin is defined in the following table:

<i>Origin: Balearic Sea</i>	<i>Origin: South Tyrrhenian Sea</i>	<i>Origin: South-Central Mediterranean</i>
300	300	300

The contract (s) is/are for the period up to **31 December 2021**, but it is probable that it/they will be extended for two months, subject to the amending the EU Grant Agreement for ICCAT GBYP Phase 11.

The interested entities shall provide a declaration strictly following the sampling protocols that will be provided by ICCAT GBYP at the signature of the contract (s), as well as a proposal including the following:

- 1) Number of adult bluefin tuna to be sampled from each area, specifying the commitment to obtain the following data and samples for each specimen:
 - i. straight fork length (SFL) in cm;
 - ii. length to the first dorsal (LD1) in cm;
 - iii. total weight in kg;
 - iv. sex identification;
 - v. otoliths sampling;
 - vi. tissue sampling for genetic studies.
- 2) The commitment to duly codify and complete the sampling table, labelling all samples according to the table. The table shall be provided to ICCAT GBYP along with the draft final report.
- 3) The commitment to provide all samples to the entity that will be identified by ICCAT GBYP, along with a copy of the sampling table.
- 4) The total budget for carrying out the sampling, including:
 - i. Personnel costs;
 - ii. Overhead (up to a maximum of 10% of the personnel cost);
 - iii. Equipment (according to the depreciation rate);
 - iv. Consumables (including shipping costs of the samples to the entity that will be indicated by ICCAT GBYP);
 - v. Travel expenses.

The Tender(s) can utilize the ICCAT Regional Observers Programme (ROP) for supporting the sampling activities to be done in tuna farms.

C) Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented availability of the necessary structure (tuna farm) to carry out the duties.
- Availability of sufficiently qualified scientific staff to carry out the various duties required.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is highly desirable.

D) Request for bids

Interested entities should submit an offer exclusively addressed to the ICCAT Executive Secretary (**camille.manel@iccat.int**), with copy to Ms. Ana Martínez (ana.martinez@iccat.int) by **27 July 2021**, including:

- a) The detailed offer, including the details listed under point B, 1 to 4;
- b) The curricula of the scientific staff;
- c) A short presentation of the entity responding to this Call for tenders and applying for this sampling, including any documented experience in these fields;
- d) The preliminary estimated budget for the collection of the samples, as detailed in point B, 4); can be subcontracted up to a maximum of 40% of the budget and must be fully detailed in the proposal;
- e) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body;
- f) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering body (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.);
- g) A declaration stating that the offering institution will follow the sampling protocols provided by ICCAT GBYP and/or any approved modifications agreed upon, as well as the administrative rules specified in the contract;
- h) A declaration stating that all the comments that are eventually made on the draft final report (Deliverable #4) will be incorporated in the final report (Deliverable #5) prior to the submission to the ICCAT SCRS;
- i) A declaration stating that the staff and all the subcontracted staff will be covered by full insurance for the development of the sampling activities and the laboratory work to be carried out according to this Call for tenders, excluding ICCAT from all the responsibilities concerning the job to be done by each offering institution;
- j) Reference to this Call for tenders (if applicable) (**ICCAT GBYP 06/2021**).
- k) A declaration specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein.

Offers that fail to furnish the required documentation or information, or reject the terms and conditions of this Call for tenders may not be considered.

The Contractor (s) should be available to present a report to any meeting requested by ICCAT.

The Contractor(s) shall be available for any ICCAT GBYP inspector at any time, and even at short notice.

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers and will decide to which entity or entities the contract(s) should be awarded.

Deliverables

- #1** A short report on any preliminary preparation work or any initial sampling activity, including the description of the work carried out up to that date, to be submitted **at the latest 30 days after the signature of the contract**.
- #2** An update of said initial report on the sampling activities to be submitted at the latest by **20 September 2021**, including the description of the work carried out up to that date and a short PowerPoint presentation, to be used also to inform the SCRS.
- #3** Another short report updating the previous reports, with information on the sampling activities carried out until late October 2021, to be provided by **20 October 2021**, to be used to inform the ICCAT Commission;
- #4** A draft final report to be submitted at the latest by **1 December 2021**, consisting in a scientific report including:
- a) A full description of the work carried out during the biological sampling;
 - b) A detailed description of the methodology and protocols (how protocols have been applied, any departure from the protocol, difficulties encountered, etc.);
 - c) Detailed table with the definitive number of samples, based on the structure that will be provided by ICCAT GBYP;
 - d) An Executive Summary of the final report.
- #5** A final report, including the definitive version of the scientific report detailed in the previous point prepared taking into account any comment provided by ICCAT, a document demonstrating that all samples have been duly sent to the entity indicated by ICCAT GBYP, and the full administrative report including copies of all the administrative documents, to be submitted by **10 December 2021**.

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

1. 30% of the total amount of the contract upon **signing of the contract**;
2. 20% upon completion and acceptance of **Deliverable #1**;
3. 30% upon completion and acceptance of **Deliverable #3**;
4. 20% after the approval of the final report (**Deliverable #5**) upon incorporation of comments by the ICCAT GBYP and the approval of the administrative documents.

Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in MS Word or compatible software, tables must be in Excel format or compatible, figures and pictures must be in JPEG or TIFF format or compatible. The format of the database shall be agreed with the ICCAT Secretariat. All documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

Copyright

All of the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of ICCAT GBYP and it must be kept confidential.

For further information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact the ICCAT GBYP Coordinator at the following address: francisco.alemany@iccat.int.