

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, 14 February 2025

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # G-00123/2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – ADDITIONAL BFT MSE WORK FOR 2025 WITHIN GBYP PHASE 14

I should like to transmit the Call for Tenders for additional BFT MSE work for 2025 within GBYP Phase 14.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this Call for Tenders to qualified people and institutions that might be interested.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION :

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	R. Chong	STACFAD Chair:	D. Warner-Kramer
Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	SCRS Vice Chair:	L.G. Cardoso
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Terms of Reference for the Call for Tenders.

Terms of reference

Additional BFT MSE work for 2025 within GBYP Phase 14

Background and objectives

The comprehensive ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) objectives are to improve data collection, knowledge of key biological and ecological processes, assessment models and management. An important element of the programme is to develop a robust advice framework consistent with the Precautionary Approach. In order to evaluate novel approaches, in 2012, the SCRS started to develop, with the support of the GBYP, a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework, as an alternative assessment and advice approach. Since then, over the successive phases of the programme, the GBYP has provided continuous support to BFT MSE process. As a result, the Commission recognized that Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Management Procedures (MPs) developed using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) provide a more robust management framework than that based on conventional stock assessment, ensuring a more precautionary approach and better stability of TACs; and a new Atlantic bluefin stock management system based on the MSE approach was adopted in 2022 (Rec. 22-09).

The final provisions of Rec. 22-09 stated that a review of the performance of the MP by the Commission and the SCRS should be completed by 2028 and every 6 years thereafter, aiming at ensuring that the adopted MP performs as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation. Such a review includes: reconditioning of the MSE operating models, retuning the existing MP, including new indices into a new MP, and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework.

In line with these provisions, the SCRS included in the Bluefin tuna workplan for 2025 several tasks aiming at evaluating the implications of new information regarding abundance, indices and stock mixing on the MSE, whose results should be discussed during the Intersessional Meeting of the the Bluefin Tuna Species Group that will be held in April 2025. Therefore, following the SCRS recommendations adopted during the 24th Special Meeting of the Commission, the ICCAT Secretariat is launching this Call for Tenders within the framework of the GBYP programme.

Contractor tasks

1. Evaluate BFT-W CKMR results
 - a) Code incorporation of WBFT CKMR estimate into MSE Operating models
2. Test 'value of information in MSE'
 - a) Impact of a 2-year cycle for GBYP aerial survey for the BR MP
 - b) Test impact of removal of GBYP aerial survey for BR MP
 - c) Test impact of BFT-E CKMR
3. 'Lite'-reconditioning
 - a) Consider a *de minimis* reconditioning to possibly include:
 - i. BFT-W CKMR
 - ii. Existing indices up to 2023
 - iii. Revised indices up to 2023
 - b) Re-tune BR CMP on reconditioned models
 - c) Obtain 2026-2028 TAC on retuned MP
 - d) Develop new projections related to existing Exceptional Circumstances provisions, consistent with the lite-reconditioning



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Deliverables

- An SCRS paper documenting the results of the aforementioned tasks will be presented at the Intersessional Meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group (8-11 April 2025)
- The above document will be reviewed by the BFT Species Group, the SCRS Chair and the Secretariat, and a revised version shall be provided to the ICCAT GBYP before 30 April 2025, taking into account any comments made during its review.
- A final version shall be submitted to the ICCAT GBYP before 10 May 2025, once approved by the ICCAT GBYP.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- At least a PhD or equivalent experience in the relevant sciences, e.g. Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering, Fisheries Science, Marine Biology, Natural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences or a closely related field.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in advanced fishery modelling, including experience in Management Strategy Evaluation and the provision of stock assessment and management advice, preferably for highly migratory species.
- Experience in participating in interdisciplinary and international working groups and/or projects.
- Demonstrated experience in quantitative methods, system modelling and software design.
- Demonstrated experience in design and implementation of management strategy evaluation and stock assessment models, preferably for highly migratory species.
- Strong working knowledge of and ability to program in major software used in fisheries stock assessment and MSE, in particular, R, ADMB and C++. Experience with FLR library is desired.
- Strong working knowledge and ability to develop and maintain contemporary program documentation systems.
- Good communication skills with scientists, managers, and stakeholders with an ability to explain the essences of the complex technical objectives, results and implications of OM and Management Procedures (MP) to a non-technical audience is desirable.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French and Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is highly desirable.
- Strong teamwork and project management skills.

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

- 1) 50% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract and after receiving a regular invoice which may be submitted at the latest 30 days after the signature of the contract;
- 2) 50% of the total amount of the contract after the acceptance by the GBYP of the Final Report submitted by the contractor, and after receiving a regular invoice which may be submitted at the latest 30 days after the acceptance of the Final Report.

Submission of proposals

The detailed offers shall be submitted **only to the attention of Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel**, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, and Cc'ing Ms. Stasa Tensek, at the following addresses: camille.manel@iccat.int and stasa.tensek@iccat.int, by **28 February 2024 (18:00, Madrid time)**, at the latest.



Logistics

The text report shall be in MS Word or compatible software. All other documents provided by the Contractor must be in Open Office, Latex or compatible software. All documents submitted must be in English.

Copyright

All the material produced by the contractor will remain the property of ICCAT. All software written by the contractor will be licensed under GLP or similar open source licence.