## ICCAT GBYP REPORT ON THE 2015 TRAINING COURSE FOR THE AERIAL SURVEY ON BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS

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## **Forewords**

Training is always a must and not a choice for any aerial survey, particularly for marine species. In 2015, due to the late release of the Call for tenders, caused by the late approval of the activities by the GBYP Steering Committee, the time frame for organizing it was extremely tight.

The Steering Committee approved a contract for some specialist, for assisting the ICCAT GBYP team in charge of the training course and provide the revised aerial survey protocols for 2015 and a short-term contract was provided to Alnilam Investigación y Conservación SL (Spain). The two specialists who participated to the training were Ph.D. Ana Cañadas y Dr. José Antonio Vásquez Bonales.

## The training course

The training course, pre-advised by phone, was organized on a very short notice in Madrid on May 26, 2015. The request to participate was sent to the three entities which were contracted for the survey (Grup Air-Med, Action Air Environnement and Consorzio Unimar) and extended also to the Turkish Authorities for their national observers.

The training course, held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid, was attended by 19 pilots, professional spotters and scientific observers from the three contractors, plus the two professionals hired for the course and three ICCAT GBYP staff. The Turkish observers were not able to participate.

The training was based on:

- a) Introduction about the ICCAT GBYP aerial survey on Bluefin tuna spawning aggregations.
- b) GBYP methodology and approaches for the aerial survey
- c) Enforcement of DISTANT methodology in GBYP aerial survey
- d) GBYP aerial survey updated protocols for 2015
- e) How to fill the aerial survey forms
- f) Costs and administrative requirements.

All participants were free to raise questions during the full duration of the training. All participants had copies of all presentations in PowerPoint.

All participants received a certificate for confirming their attendance.

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ICCAT GBYP AERIAL SURVEY 2015 TRAINING COURSE (Madrid 26 May 2015)

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