

Madrid – March 23, 2010


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An important element of the ICCAT Atlantic Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) is to carry out aerial surveys by transects in the Mediterranean of the spawning population. As part of this a short-term contract to oversee the survey design is to be awarded.

The attached Terms of Reference explain the nature and scope of the work that should be carried out, as well as the qualifications required to compete for this contract.

Kindly distribute this information to scientists who may be interested in this offer. The information required should be submitted to the Secretariat by March 31, 2010.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

P.O. 

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

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Head Scientists (English)**Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities (English):**

Chinese Taipei	T.Y. Tsay, H.Y. Huang, D.R. Lin
Guyana	D. Permaul, V. Joshi
Neth. Antilles	S. Mambi

Attach.: Terms of Reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
SHORT-TERM AERIAL SURVEY DESIGN CONTRACT
ATLANTIC WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP – 2010)

Background and objectives

The comprehensive ICCAT Atlantic Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) is required to improve basic data collection, understanding of key biological and ecological processes and assessment models and management.

An important element of this programme is to carry out aerial surveys by transects in the Mediterranean of the spawning population where and when schools can traditionally be sighted close to the surface to support development of fishery-independent indices. As part of this a short-term contract to oversee the survey design is to be awarded.

Contractor tasks

The Contractor, who will work in close consultation with the GBYP coordinator and Steering Committee prior to the commencement of the survey in the third week of May 2010, should provide the survey design before 15 May 2010.

The operational budget for the 1st year survey is sufficient for 23 days airtime (by main area) with 3 aircraft; there are 6 survey sub-areas based on known 3 main spawning areas that range in area from about 220 to about 540 square nautical miles. The contract is to specify two separate survey designs for i) a synoptic survey to provide a minimum population estimate and ii) a relative index based on using a comparable design over an extended time period (i.e.: 4 years). Estimates of the potential uncertainty with the survey design should be provided as a function of coverage, i.e. how this would vary with increased or reduced spatial and temporal coverage. The map of the known spawning areas is attached.

As preliminary information, the surveys will be conducted by several aircrafts in the various areas, at a spotting altitude of 300 m. The distance covered in one hour flights should be about 100 nm, with 6 flight hours per day. It is reasonable to take into account a bad weather forecast of 20% of the days in spring/summer (bad weather conditions means winds over 3 or 4 Beaufort, which prevents a reliable observation of tuna schools close to the sea surface).

In the future additional surveys will be conducted for larval and juvenile populations and the spawning surveys will eventually contribute to a whole population survey. It is likely that additional contracts will be awarded to design these additional surveys.

Copyright

All of the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of GBYP.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- Graduate degree in Statistics, Population Biology or a closely related field.
- Experience of survey design to conduct population censuses of marine populations, preferably with documented previous experience in aerial survey design.
- Ability to work well under pressure and to work effectively and harmoniously with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.
- 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.

Request for bids (Expression of Interest)

Interested experts should submit the following information to the Executive Secretary (driss.meski@iccat.int) and, in copy, to the GBYP Coordinator (antonio.dinatale@iccat.int) by **30 March, 2010**:

- a) A Curriculum Vitae, with documented experience in aerial survey design, to include recent and relevant contracts for the same or similar items and other references (including contract numbers, points of contact with telephone numbers and other relevant information);
- b) A preliminary estimated budget for the design, up to a maximum of 10,000 Euros and any discount terms;
- c) The name, address, and telephone number of the bidder;
- d) A short technical description of the survey design being offered in sufficient detail to evaluate compliance with the requirements in this Call for Expression of Interest;
- e) A completed copy of the operating licence and authorization (if applicable);
- f) Acknowledge of the Call for Expression of Interest (if applicable);
- g) Statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included. Offers that fail to furnish required documentation or information, or reject the terms and conditions of the Call for Expression of Interest may be excluded from consideration.

The travel cost for the eventual participation of the selected expert to the GBYP Steering Committee meeting, that should be held in parallel with the ICCAT Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (21-23 April) or to the ICCAT SCRS Plenary, to be agreed by the Coordinator and the Steering Committee, will be covered under a separate budget line of the GBYP.

The Steering Committee will review the candidatures based on the above information and proceed to the selection of a candidate.

Contractors can be either individuals or research institutions such as government laboratories, universities, or private consultancy firms.

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule: 30% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract, 40% upon completion of Tasks, and 30% upon incorporation of comments by the GBYP steering committee.

Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in MS Word or compatible. The documents should be in English, French or Spanish.