



Madrid – October 13, 2011

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4363 / 2011

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE – CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 10/2011
STOCK ASSESSMENT MODELLING (ICCAT/GBYP Phase 2 – 2011)**

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached the Terms of Reference - Call for Tenders GBYP 10/2011 for “**Stock Assessment Modelling**” of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP).

This information has been translated to French and Spanish by the ICCAT Secretariat.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

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Attachment: Terms of Reference – Call for Tenders GBYP 10/2011.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 10/2011

Stock Assessment Modelling

ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT/GBYP Phase 2 – 2011)

Background and objectives

The objectives of the comprehensive ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) 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. This requires the development of new stock assessment methods that take into account the main sources of uncertainty and utilise the new data sets and knowledge provided by the GBYP. New data sets include, for example, historic catch and effort data, aerial surveys of spawning aggregations and tagging of juveniles. In order to evaluate novel approaches, the SCRS is developing a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework that includes a simulation or Operating Model. This will allow current and alternative assessment and advice frameworks to be evaluated with respect to their ability to meet multiple management objectives.

In March 2011 two lots were offered for tender by scientific institutes and public or private entities, with up to three contracts to be awarded each up to a value of €10,000. However, only two contracts were awarded and therefore a second call is being published for a single contract under Lot2. Due to the limited time available to complete the work, not all elements specified in the original call are required and the contract will be for a maximum of €5,000.

Lot 2: Alternative Advice Frameworks (two contracts concerning two different proposals)

A single contract will be awarded to allow existing assessment methods to be implemented as an R package to allow the simulation of a harvest control rule (HCR) or management regulation based upon appropriate reference points with the Management Strategy Evaluation Framework being developed.

The Contractor must propose a current assessment method and then implement it as an R package. In addition, all software must run under Windows and Linux operating systems. This will ensure transparency and allow the various elements to be evaluated alongside alternatives that might be developed by others, e.g., within SCRS, the GBYP, or management bodies, both now and in the future.

Contractors tasks for Lot 2

Contractors will work in close consultation with the GBYP Steering Committee and the ICCAT Population Dynamics Expert.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- Experience in stock assessment and management advice.
- University degree in any of the following: Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering, Fisheries Science, Marine Biology Natural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences or a closely related fields.
- 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

Interested entities should submit an offer to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following address: driss.meski@iccat.int by **October 28, 2011**, including:

- a) A detailed offer, which shall include a description of methodology to be used.
- b) A short *Curriculum vitae* of the tender (in case of individual scientists) and of any collaborators, i.e. the 5 most relevant papers and involvement in research projects or management bodies.
- c) An estimated budget which shall not exceed €10000.
- d) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body.
- e) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering body (e.g.: statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.), if applicable.
- f) A detailed list of any subcontracts.
- g) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders.
- h) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included.

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

The Contractor should be available to report to the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods, the Bluefin Tuna Species Group and the SCRS; if so required reasonable expenses will be paid.

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers, in consultation with the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee.

Deliverables

Lot 2: Alternative Scientific Advice Frameworks

- 2-1 A report will be submitted by **December 16, 2011** to the Population Dynamics Expert and the GBYP Coordinator.
- 2-3 Software available as an R package, methods or classes with documentation.

Evaluation

Contracts will be awarded on the basis of competitive tendering and the evaluation of proposals will be undertaken objectively, consistently and without bias towards particular suppliers. Tenders will be evaluated against a pre-determined set of criteria, which include: (i) cost; (ii) proven track record; (iii) technical merit based on work plan; (iv) flexibility to future changes to requirements; and (v) contribution to the overall objectives of the GBYP.

The ICCAT Secretariat, in coordination with the GBYP Steering Committee, will examine each tender received and make recommendations as to which tender is the most economically advantageous. Once the decision to award the contract has been made, both the successful and unsuccessful tenderers will be notified. Unsuccessful tenderers may request a detailed letter explaining the reasons for the decision and the relative characteristics of their bid compared to the winning bid.

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;
- 2) 50% after the approval of the final report by the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee.

Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in Open Office, Latex or compatible software, all documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

Copyright

All software written by the Contractor will be licensed under GPL or similar open source licence. .
For information concerning this call for tenders, please contact the Program Coordinator at the following address: antonio.dinatale@iccat.int