



Madrid – September 6, 2012

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4158 / 2012

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE – CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 02/2012
MODELLING APPROACHES: RISK ASSESSMENT
(ICCAT/GBYP Phase 3 – 2012)**

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached the Terms of Reference - Call for Tenders GBYP 02/2012 for “**Modelling Approaches: Risk Assessment**” 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
ICCAT Executive Secretary

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Attachment: Call for Tenders GBYP 02/2012

TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 02/2012

Modelling Approaches: Risk Assessment

ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT/GBYP Phase 3 – 2012)

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. To support the SCRS work, the GBYP Steering Committee decided to include among the objectives of Phase 3 of the project the analysis and preparation of new data sets and the development of new approaches to stock assessment taking into account the different sources of uncertainties.

This Call for Tenders is limited to *Risk Assessment*.

Although several sources of uncertainty were considered when formulating the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin recovery plan, not all sources of uncertainty were explicitly considered. Therefore, a contract for a Risk Assessment was awarded in 2011 to identify and provide a preliminary quantification of the main sources of uncertainty. This follow up Call for Tenders is to expand the approach to include consultation with a wider range of stakeholders, potentially to allow appropriate scenarios to be specified for use in the Operating Model when evaluating alternative advice frameworks.

Contractor tasks

The Contractor will work in close consultation with ICCAT-GBYP and the ICCAT Population Dynamics Expert.

Risk Assessment is the formal process of managing risk where risk are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed in order to ensure that management objectives are likely to be achieved. The bluefin tuna rebuilding plan is based on stochastic projections that considered a range of uncertainties. However the SCRS stated that “*the Commission might consider a probability of rebuilding standard different from that envisaged considering the unquantified uncertainties*”. This implicitly accepts that the projections did not capture all the uncertainty associated with the assessment and management of the stock and that the probabilities predicted by the projection are likely to be more optimistic than those that will be achieved in reality. However, the unquantified sources of uncertainty were not explicitly identified nor were the associated risks and their impact on achieving the management objectives evaluated.

Therefore, the Contractor, in consultation with stakeholders, must identify the main risks and identify their relative importance to the stakeholders based on the common accepted methodology. This will allow the SCRS and the GBYP Steering Committee to prioritise research and for managers to evaluate the benefits of alternative management options with a cost effect goal.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- A minimum of 5 years of experience in stock assessment and/or 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

Scientists and public or private Scientific Institutes or entities interested 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 **September 16, 2012**, 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, including the following items: personnel, overhead (max. 10% of the personnel cost), consumables and travel.
- 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 sent after the deadline or 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 Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), the Bluefin Tuna Species Group (BFTSG) and the SCRS; if so required, reasonable expenses will be paid.

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers and, in consultation with the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee. Following the selection process, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the entity selected for the contract by **September 20, 2012**, at the latest.

Deliverables

- 1) An SCRS paper that summarizes the risk assessment method and identifies future research priorities
- 2) A final report to be submitted by **January 4, 2013**, at the latest, to the GBYP Coordinator (gbyp@iccat.int) and to the Population Dynamics Expert (laurie.kell@iccat.int).

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, 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 tenders will be notified. Unsuccessful tenders 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:

- 50% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract;
- 50% after the approval of the final report by the ICCAT SCRS upon incorporation of comments 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