



Madrid – 9 December, 2013

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 6910 / 2013

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE – CALL FOR TENDERS - GBYP 07/2013
MODELLING APPROACHES: SUPPORT TO BFT STOCK ASSESSMENT
(ICCAT/GBYP PHASE 4 – 2013)**

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached the Terms of Reference - Call for Tenders GBYP 07/2013 for “**Modelling Approaches: Support to BFT Stock Assessment**” of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski
ICCAT Executive Secretary

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Attachment: Call for Tenders GBYP 07/2013

TERMS OF REFERENCE
CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 07/2013
MODELLING APPROACHES: SUPPORT TO BFT STOCK ASSESSMENT.
ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA
(ICCAT/GBYP Phase 4 – 2013)

1. Background and objectives

The comprehensive objectives of the 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. The GBYP Modelling programme is aimed at developing a new Scientific Management Framework for Atlantic bluefin recognising the importance of sound scientific advice as the centerpiece for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

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 as recommended during the KOBE process. This includes a simulation or Operating Model (OM). This will allow current and alternative assessment and advice frameworks to be evaluated with respect to their ability to meet multiple management objectives with acceptable levels of risk.

Initial focus needs to be on establishing the data base to be utilised in the upcoming 2015 stock assessment and used as a basis for OM development. For OM development as part of the MSE, it will be necessary to identify and coordinate the development and running of the necessary computer code. It will also be necessary to incorporate procedures that will inform the hypotheses to be considered. This should be based upon broad consultation and dialogue with experts having appropriate knowledge and/or experience in the bluefin fisheries. The Bluefin Stock Assessment Methods Meeting in Gloucester, USA, therefore recommended that the GBYP initiate a parallel effort to progress the MSE, which will have to be less dependent upon direct efforts of the Secretariat and National Scientists who have the responsibility for addressing the stock assessment tasks requested by the Commission.

ICCAT is publishing this announcement in order to invite suitably qualified experts to submit offers in order to coordinate the development of modelling approaches as described below. It is anticipated that this will be a multi-year task and that a coordinator will be required throughout the 2-3 year process. It is highly desirable that the same person coordinate the work to ensure continuity and efficiency. As such, we are seeking an individual who would have the commitment and would be available to participate in the work over the next 2-3 years. Currently funding arrangement does not allow making a commitment beyond the **February 28, 2014** for completion of the work specified in this tender. It is anticipated that funding for continuation of the work, at least through September 2014, will be finalized in the near future. Preference will be given to the person awarded this contract for further coordination of the project contingent upon satisfactory performance and funding.

It should be noted that a full time technical person will also be contracted and available for this project to complete a substantial amount of the implementation (including programming) of the operating model and MSE work. The coordinator would be expected to work closely with this person and in conjunction with the Secretariat oversee the work of this person.

2. Contractor tasks

In 2013, an SCRS meeting on Bluefin tuna Stock Assessment Methods (BFTSAM) (http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2013_BFT_METHODS_REP_ENG.pdf) recommended that “a detailed multi-annual work plan that includes objectives, deliverables and responsibilities, be developed” based on an outline developed during that meeting (see Annex 1 to this document).

A draft work plan was subsequently developed. As a first step of the process, this work plan now needs to be reviewed and finalised. Following which, as recommended by BFTSAM, it is necessary to:

- “develop an associated budget for the work plan”

It was also recommended that:

- “external support is needed for conducting the work plan, particularly for implementing the operating model, this support must be guaranteed for a number of years and to ...”
- “establish a core modelling steering group to oversee the work.”

There is also the need for developing the operating model and management strategy evaluations in conformity with the recommendations from the Bluefin Methods meeting in Gloucester, MA. The priority for this year (phase 4) is to develop and implement a detailed multi-annual work plan that includes objectives, deliverables and responsibilities (based on the outline established at the 2013 Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment meeting in Gloucester, Ma). To achieve this, the SC recommended that an external expert be contracted, assisted by the Secretariat’s relevant expertise in modelling to oversee these objectives for phase 4.

Therefore the tasks as requested by the (SC) are:

- 1) To review and recommend a final version of “the detailed multi-annual work plan”, to be approved by the secretariat and GBYP Steering Committee (SC).

The work plan must:

- a) Explicitly review, define and compile objectives required to achieve the aims of the GBYP modeling programme;
 - b) Define and elaborate the deliverables required to meet the objectives defined;
 - c) Assign responsibilities for undertaking and achieving the defined deliverables
- 2) Establish the members of the “core modeling steering group in coordination with the Secretariat and initiate correspondence and video conferencing to agree on the multi-annual work plan and initiate discussion on developing the initial general structure for the OM
 - 3) Develop a detail work plan for 2014 including required meetings and proposed dates while including envisioned costs.

The total amount of work required to fulfill the duty in this first part is a maximum of 30 (thirty) working days and should be accomplished **before the end of February 2014**.

As noted above further modeling will be required in the next phases of the GBYP, it is anticipated that the Modelling Coordinator will be required to coordinate the modeling aspects of the project in these subsequent phases, assisted by the Secretariat’s relevant expertise in modeling. This additional coordination work is dependent on the outcome of this tender and on the availability of funding for the GBYP.

3. 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 fields.
- A minimum of 15 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 chairing and leading interdisciplinary and international working group and/or projects.
- Good communication skills with scientists, managers, and stakeholders with an ability to explain the essences of the complex technical objectives, results and implications of OMs and Management Procedures (MP) to a non-technical audience
- Strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.
- Experience in quantitative methods, system modelling and software design.
- 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 leadership skills
- Availability and willingness to participate in the process over the next 2-3 years

4. Submission of bids

Scientists and public or private Scientific Institutes or entities interested shall submit a detailed offer to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following address: driss.meski@iccat.int by **January 10, 2014**, including:

- a) a description of methodology to be used;
- b) the budget proposal;
- c) A short *Curriculum vitae* of the tender (in case of individual scientists, i.e., the 5 most relevant papers and involvement in research projects or management bodies;
- 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) Acknowledgement of this Call for Tenders; and
- g) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included.

If the tender is submitted by an institute, it must indicate the expert who will be dedicated to the coordination task and that he is available to participate in this project over the next 2-3 years. 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.

5. Selection of bids

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers. Following the selection process, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the entity selected for the contract by **January 15, 2014**, at the latest.

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 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.

Deliverables

The deliverable shall be a finalised multi-annual workplan with associated responsibilities, tasks and estimated budget, based on the draft workplan provided. The draft deliverable shall be provided by **February 20, 2014** and the final version, including any comment by ICCAT, shall be submitted by **February 28, 2014**. Details of proposed methodologies and how the workplan can be achieved should also be included.

7. Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

- 1) 40% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract;
- 2) 60% after the approval of the final report by ICCAT upon incorporation of comments made by ICCAT.

8. 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, French or Spanish.

9. Copyright

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

For information concerning this call for tenders, please contact the GBYP Coordinator at the following address: antonio.dinatale@iccat.int