



Madrid, 2 April 2014

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1704 / 2014

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS – ICCAT-GBYP 01/2014  
TAGGING PROGRAMME - FIELD TAG AWARENESS ACTIVITIES  
ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT/GBYP – PHASE 4)**

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached Terms of Reference for a Call for Tenders - ICCAT/GBYP 01/2014 “**Tagging Programme - Field Tag Awareness Activities**” of Phase 4 of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski  
*Executive Secretary*

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Drafted by:		
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**Attachment:** TOR - Call for Tenders - GBYP Phase 4 for “Field Tag Awareness Activities”.



**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT-GBYP 01/2014**  
**TAGGING PROGRAMME – FIELD TAG AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**  
**ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA**  
**(ICCAT/GBYP – PHASE 4)**

**ICCAT-GBYP Background and objectives**

The main objectives of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Bluefin Tuna Research Programme (GBYP) are to improve: (a) the understanding of key biological and ecological processes, (b) current assessment methodology, (c) the management procedures, and (d) advice.

Key tasks are to reduce uncertainty in stock assessment and to provide robust management advice. This requires improved knowledge of key biological processes and parameters. However, currently almost all the data used in stock assessments are obtained from the fisheries-dependent data. It is therefore important to obtain data from alternative sources, such as tagging studies, in order to verify the assumptions made when conducting the assessments.

Many assumptions used in the previous assessments, such as stock structure and natural mortality, have been called into question by recent studies, e.g. Carlsson *et al.* (2003) which suggest that bluefin tuna species has a complex population structure with genetic differences within the Mediterranean and central North Atlantic; recent genetic and micro-chemical investigations carried out by ICCAT-GBYP are showing the possible existence of more complex meta-populations. The ICCAT-GBYP also included Aerial Surveys among its research activities and therefore knowledge about behaviour that influences sighting probability, such as vertical habitat utilisation and movement among areas surveyed, is important in deriving indices of abundance. The mixing between the bluefin tuna management units and the existence of meta-populations are important issues to be considered. A well-designed tagging programme, developed over a schedule of several years in a progressive methodological approach, will therefore be ~~important~~ **required** in improving the understanding of bluefin tuna ecology and ethology and for developing better stock assessment methods. The use of electronic tags, included in the programme since Phase 2, is revealed to be very important for improving the understanding of both the vertical and horizontal movements of bluefin tuna and their use of the marine habitat.

Thousands of bluefin tunas (mostly juveniles) were tagged with conventional and electronic tags during the first Phases of GBYP both in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Mediterranean Sea, and the large majority of the fish are still in the wild. Therefore, it is very possible that several tags will be recovered and reported from now on. The current tag ~~reporting-recovery~~ rate for bluefin tuna, particularly for the eastern stock, is very low for several reasons: ~~privacy-individual~~ attitudes of ~~many-some~~ fishermen, lack of will, recoveries during illegal activities, size limit regulation, etc., including the lack of correct information about how to report the tags and apply for the rewards. The tag recovery rate from tuna farms is also very low, with some farms which never reported any tag so far.

In Phase 2, ICCAT/GBYP had launched an extensive institutional tag awareness and rewarding campaign (<http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/AwCamp.asp>), through a wide dissemination of many thousands of posters and stickers ~~to-among~~ the main institutional contacts in all concerned CPCs, but also ~~to~~ professional fishers' organizations, ~~to~~ recreational and sport fishers' organizations, NGOs and various entities, promoting also articles on magazines. Consequently, ICCAT/GBYP had ~~substantially-significantly~~ improved the tag reward ~~levels~~ **amounts**, in order to further promote the reporting activity. These preliminary tools resulted in quite higher ~~reporting-recovery~~ rates compared to the past, but they are still not at a sufficient level for properly allowing the use of tagging data for stock assessment purposes.

This Call for Tenders concerns one of the main activities to be carried out in the extension of Phase 4 (up to September 2014): a field tag awareness activity in most of the areas where fisheries for eastern bluefin tuna are active.

## FIELD TAG AWARENESS ACTIVITIES 2014

The specific objectives of the field tag awareness activities in 2014 are the following:

- a) Establish direct contacts with the main bluefin tuna fishers' communities, the tuna farmers and the traps in various CPCs, for disseminating ICCAT-GBYP tag awareness material (posters, stickers, etc.) and disseminate the correct information about tag recovery and reporting procedures and the ICCAT-GBYP tag rewarding policy.
- b) Establish a national liaison with tuna farmers, traps and fishers to serve as the tag reference person (focal point) during the duration of the contract, for facilitating the contacts with ICCAT-GBYP when necessary.
- c) Establish direct contacts with the observers working in farms for the ICCAT-Regional Observer Programme (ROP), in order to facilitate the tag awareness in each farm and encourage better cooperation in farm.
- d) Promote articles in local newspapers and media about the ICCAT-GBYP tag recovery and reporting activities.
- e) Carry out ~~the activity-activities~~ in the most relevant areas where eastern bluefin tuna fisheries are ~~active~~located, those countries where farms or traps are located (see: <http://www.iccat.int/en/ffb.asp> ) or those where the tag ~~reporting-recovery~~ rate is very low or non-existent. Preferentially, field tag awareness activities should possibly be conducted in the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, EU-Croatia, EU-Cyprus, EU-France, EU-Greece, EU-Italy, EU-Malta, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

These activities shall be ~~implemented-carried out~~ in close collaboration with the ICCAT/GBYP Coordinator.

Scientific institutes, individual scientists, and public or private entities could submit tenders for carrying out the entire field tag awareness programme for 2014: ~~knowing that given that this activity can be carried out in various different ways, it is therefore necessary that the tendering entity specify in the bid the way in which this activity will be carried out and if it covers in all areas or in each single area. Each tender can bid for all, one or more areas.~~

### Contractor tasks

The Contractor(s), who will work in close ~~consultation-collaboration~~ with the ICCAT/GBYP Coordination, will conduct the field tag awareness activity by establishing direct contacts with the main bluefin tuna fishers' communities, the sport fishers associations, the tuna traps, the tuna farms and the ROP observers, in order to promote knowledge and awareness about the various aspects of ICCAT-GBYP tag recovery, tag reporting and tag rewarding activities. ICCAT-GBYP will provide the necessary awareness material (posters, stickers, etc.), in various languages.

Furthermore, the Contractor(s) shall be the focal point for the period of the contract, for facilitating all contacts between the tag recovering person and ICCAT, when requested.

The Contractor(s) shall also promote articles on local newspapers and media about the ICCAT-GBYP tag awareness activities, upon a preliminary clearance to be provided by ICCAT for any press release. ICCAT should possibly provide pictures and videos if necessary.

Sub-contract ~~ings activities provided for in this are not admitted for this~~ Call for tenders ~~is not authorized.~~

### Contractor minimum qualifications

- University degree in natural sciences, biological sciences, marine ecology, marine science, or scientific communication (preferred).
- Documented multi-year experience and knowledge of bluefin tuna fisheries.

- Good knowledge of the various activities at the national level for each country.
- Good skills for communicating with a large variety of audiences, including fishers, in a simple and very clear manner.
- Good skills for dealing with media.
- Availability to travel to the main places.
- Availability to operate as a reference tag contact person if and when necessary.
- Excellent working knowledge of the national language for the area(s) included in the bid.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is highly desirable.

### Request for bids

Interested entities shall submit their offer to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following email address: [driss.meski@iccat.int](mailto:driss.meski@iccat.int) by **28 April, 2014**, including:

- a) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders (**ICCAT-GBYP 01/2014**)
- b) A detailed offer, based on the objectives of this Call for tenders, clearly specifying the area(s) for which the bid is provided. The offer shall specify the minimum number of sites to be visited in each country, listing them, and corresponding calendar
- c) The curriculum or curricula of the institution(s) or entity(ies) applying for the ICCAT/GBYP field tag awareness activity in 2014, with any documented experience, to include (for the entities only) recent and relevant contracts for the same or similar items and other references (including contract numbers, references of contact with telephone numbers and other relevant information); if an institution is tendering, then the CV shall include also the curriculum or curricula of the person(s) in charge of the field activities, who must be clearly identified in the offer.
- d) An estimated budget for the field tag awareness activity, including the necessary travel costs and any discount terms (overhead to cover administrative and general costs could be admitted within a maximum limit of 10% of the personnel costs). If more than one country is included in the bid, then the budget shall include the costs related to the activity to be accomplished in each country. If an individual is tendering, then the offer should be a lump sum, including both professional allowances and travel costs.
- e) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering entity;
- f) The bank account of the tendering body, (bank name, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes), the IVA=VAT identification code and/or the tax identification code;
- g) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering entity (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.) (not applicable for the individuals).
- h) A declaration that the offering entity will follow the terms of the present Call for tenders and/or approved modifications agreed upon, and the administrative rules specified in the contract.
- i) A declaration that all the comments eventually made on the draft final report (**Deliverable #2**) will be incorporated in the final (**Deliverable #3**).
- j) A declaration that the staff or the tendering entity will be covered by full insurance for the field and office activities to be carried out according to this Call for tenders.
- k) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions herein included, particularly specifying the date for the draft final report (**Deliverable #2**) and the date for the final report (**Deliverable #3**).

The ICCAT Secretariat will select the offers according to the terms of this Call for tenders and according to the logistics in each area. The budget of the offer shall reflect the area(s) or areas where the work will be carried out. Should the total budget of the offers be higher than the total budget availability, then preference will be given to the most difficult areas in terms of tag reporting. The ICCAT Secretariat will notify the result as soon as the selection process is completed.

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

Contractors can be either research institution, such as government or private laboratories, universities, or private consultancy firms, or individual scientists having the required qualifications.

## Deliverables

- #1 A short report outlining the workplan on field tag awareness activities in each country, including the list of all visited places, the list of places to be visited in the following period, the corresponding calendar, the list of fishers' communities or organisation contacted and all other relevant data and information up to that date, to be submitted at the latest by **15 June, 2014**:
- #2 The draft final report to be submitted at the latest by **5 September, 2014**, including:
- a) Full description of the work carried out for the field tag awareness by country, with a detailed description of all contacts, including observers of the ICCAT-ROP;
  - b) Detailed list of all visited places (including farms), with the dates;
  - c) Detailed list of awareness material which was distributed;
  - d) Full description of all contacts for any recovered tag during the period of the contract.
  - e) Copies of any article published on national newspapers and magazines, any national broadcast of advertisement on Radio and/or TV about the ICCAT tag awareness activities;
  - f) Detailed description of the difficulties encountered or the motivation reported by fishers for not reporting the tags.
  - g) Any possible recommendations for adjusting the ICCAT tag awareness strategy for the future.
- #3 The final report, to be prepared taking into account any comments provided by ICCAT, and the full administrative report including copies of all the administrative documents if such was included in the administrative rules of the contract, to be submitted by **12 September, 2014**.

## 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. 20% upon completion and acceptance of **Deliverable #1**;
3. 20% after the completion of **Deliverable #2** upon incorporation of comments by the ICCAT.
4. 20% after the approval of the final report (**Deliverable #3**) and the approval of the **administrative** documents.

## Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in MS Word or compatible software; tables must be in Excel format or compatible; figures and pictures must be in JPEG or TIFF format or compatible. All documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

## Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of ICCAT, will be kept confidential, and cannot, in any case, be circulated by the Contractor selected. The scientific use of the data by the Contractor shall always be notified to ICCAT in advance for clearance.

For further information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact the ICCAT/GBYP Coordinator at the following address: [antonio.dinatale@iccat.int](mailto:antonio.dinatale@iccat.int).