



Madrid, 9 March 2016

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # 0270 / 16

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 01/2016 - SECOND REVIEW OF THE ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP PHASE 6-2016)

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached Call for Tenders **GBYP 01/2016** for the **“Review 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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Attachment: Call for Tenders GBYP 6/2016.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 01/2016
SECOND REVIEW OF ICCAT GBYP
ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA
(ICCAT GBYP Phase 6 – 2016)

Background

The ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) was adopted by SCRS and endorsed by the Commission in 2008, after a long process. Details are on <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/>

The components of the original programme were as follows:

- a) Improve basic data collection through data-mining (including information from traps, observers, and VMS); developing methods to estimate sizes of fish caged; elaborating accurate CPUE indices for Mediterranean purse seine fleets; development of fisheries-independent abundance surveys; and implementing a large scale experiment with conventional marks and genetic tags.
- b) Improve understanding of key biological and ecological processes through electronic tagging experiments to determine habitat and migration routes; implementing a broad scale biological collection of samples from live tagged fish and dead landed fish (e.g. gonads, liver, otoliths, spines, etc.); conducting histological analyses to determine bluefin tuna reproductive state and potential; biological and genetics analyses to investigate mixing and population structure; and review predator-prey relationships.
- c) Enhance assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status through improved modelling of key biological processes (including growth and stock-recruitment); further developing of stock assessment models, including mixing between various areas; and developing and use of biologically realistic operating models for evaluation of management strategies.

A GBYP Steering Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the programme and to guide and refine the programme as necessary. It is composed of the SCRS Chair, ICCAT Executive Secretary and/or his Assistant, the bluefin tuna Rapporteurs for the eastern and western stocks, and an outside expert with substantial experience in similar research undertakings from another RFMO.

The GBYP was originally conceived as a six year programme with an overall budget of 19,135,000 Euros; since the beginning of the programme, it has been organized in Phases instead of years, to adapt the programme to the requirements of the main funding sources.

Phase 6, which is supposed to be the last phase of the initial programme, will be implemented in 2016 and 2017. The funding provided to the ICCAT GBYP up to the current sixth Phase (7th and 8th year) represents 63.8% of the originally anticipated budget (12,176,000 Euros versus 19,075,000 Euros). At present, the GBYP includes a central coordination component and the following four research components:

- Data Mining and recovery
- Biological Studies
- Fishery independent indices
- Modelling

A mid-term review of ICCAT GBYP was carried out in 2013 and the report was presented to the SCRS and the Commission (see the detailed report on http://iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV070_2014/n_2/CV070020565.pdf, the SCRS discussion on http://iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_12-13_II_2.pdf, and the endorsement of the SCRS report by the Commission on http://iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_12-13_II_1.pdf).

Following this Mid-term Review and the SCRS recommendations, the ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee presented a plan for the future of GBYP, proposing the extension of the research activities up to 2021 (http://iccat.int/Documents/CVSP/CV071_2015/n_4/CV071041843.pdf). The SCRS (http://iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_14-15_I-2.pdf page 213) and the Commission endorsed such plan (http://iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_14-15_I-1.pdf). During the last ICCAT ordinary meeting, however, it was recommended to conduct another review of the programme before proceeding to its extension.

Terms of reference of the second GBYP review

ICCAT is seeking an independent evaluation of the success of the GBYP in achieving its objectives based on the following terms of reference:

- For each of the scientific components, review the progress made to date relative to the detailed objectives for that component.
 - Review the appropriateness and adequacy of the design of various experiments and scientific studies, including their implementation and the results obtained to date.
 - Suggest possible modifications or additions to each research component that may improve the accuracy, precision, robustness and/or cost-efficiency of the information being obtained.
 - Provide guidance on the timeframe and resources required to complete remaining detailed objectives.
 - Describe trade-offs between the need to complete current studies and any new studies of modified versions of current studies.
 - Provide an overview of the interrelationships, priority and reasonable timeframes to achieve detailed objectives of the various scientific components. Prioritization should be based on the relative contribution of each component to the improvement of the stock assessments, the provision of management advice and the broad scientific knowledge on bluefin tuna.
- Review the administrative and logistic constraints that the programme has operated under and how these have affected the implementation of the research activities, their continuity and the ability of the GBYP to meet its primary objectives.
 - Link such constraints to the previous terms of reference and propose possible improvements in the implementation, efficiency and the cost effectiveness of the work undertaken.
 - Provide comments on the current funding system for GBYP and suggestions for its improvement.

The evaluators shall do their evaluation by comparing the initial objectives established at the beginning of the programme with those achieved, by considering effects of any reported budgetary and logistical constraints out of the control of the programme.

The reviewers shall take into account the final results from the first five phases of the Programme, including two cost/benefits analyses (for the tagging activities and the aerial survey) which were carried out in the very last part of GBYP Phase 5, as recommended by the GBYP Steering Committee, the SCRS and the Commission.

Job description

The review is to be conducted by **two independent experts** (i.e., individuals not directly engaged in GBYP activities or who do not have a direct vested interest in the results of the Programme).

The reviewers shall have an extensive documented experience and understanding of large-scale research programs for fishery resources (preferably related to large pelagic fish and ideally in relation to bluefin or other tuna resources) and its application to stock assessments and the provision of scientific advice for fishery management purposes. International experience will be highly preferred.

The reviewers shall have an 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.

Each reviewer will undertake an independent assessment of the GBYP against the above Terms of Reference.

The two reviewers will then produce a combined report of their findings and conclusions. The report shall identify items where there is consensus between the two reviewers and items where there is not.

The GBYP Coordinator will provide the reviewing team all the relevant GBYP and related ICCAT documents. The reviewing team will have access via oral and/or written consultations to selected ICCAT Secretariat staff involved in the project, relevant GBYP contractors, GBYP Steering Committee members and BFT WG members. The GBYP Coordinator will assist, as needed, with the facilitation of any such consultations and any other information the reviewers may require.

The reviewers shall provide a list and summary of all such contacts made as an appendix to their report.

The reviewers may be requested to provide additional comments to the SCRS and/or the Commission after their report is considered. Such input will incur additional costs that need not to be included in the budget for this task but will be reimbursed by ICCAT through a future addendum to the contract.

Request for bids

Interested scientists shall submit an offer to the ICCAT Executive Secretary (driss.meski@iccat.int) by **March 27, 2016**, including:

- a) Full personal details (name, address, education, current position, tax code, etc.) of the applicant.
- b) Bank details.
- c) Curriculum vitae.
- d) Scientific production.
- e) Budget, including honoraria and cost associated with the review of the documents, reporting and the attendance to a maximum of two meetings in Madrid.

Deliverables

The draft report must be submitted no later than **June 30, 2016**. The structure of the report needs to contain a section for each TOR, a list of references, a list of documents examined and a list of scientists consulted during the review.

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

1. 30% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract;
2. 20% after the submission of the draft report.
3. 50% after the approval of the final report.

Logistics

All documents provided by the reviewers 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 of the material produced by the reviewers will remain the property of ICCAT GBYP and it must be kept confidential.