



Madrid, 2 March 2017

## ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # 0362 / 17

**SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS - ICCAT GBYP (01/2017) AERIAL SURVEY FOR BLUEFIN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS - AERIAL SURVEY DESIGN, TRAINING COURSE, REAL-TIME MONITORING OF THE DATA AND REAL-TIME SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS. ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT-GBYP Phase 7)**

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached Call for Tenders ICCAT-GBYP 01/2017 for "Aerial survey for bluefin spawning aggregations - Aerial survey design, training course, real-time monitoring of the data and real-time survey data analysis" of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT/GBYP).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman :	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair	F. Donatella
Second Vice Chair:	R. Delgado	STACFAD Chair	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		

- **Head Delegates, Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attachment:** Call for Tenders ICCAT GBYP 01/2017.

## CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 01/2017

### AERIAL SURVEY FOR BLUEFIN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS – AERIAL SURVEY DESIGN, TRAINING COURSE, REAL-TIME MONITORING OF THE DATA AND REAL – TIME SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS. ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP – PHASE 7)

#### 1 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 fisheries-dependent data. It is therefore important to obtain data from alternative sources, such as the aerial survey for bluefin tuna spawning aggregations, in order to verify the assumptions made when conducting the assessments or to improve the current data sets used in OM or MSE.

One of the major research tasks under the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Bluefin Tuna Research Programme (GBYP) is the aerial survey for spawning aggregations, which has already been carried out under different strategies in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2015, followed by three power analyses (all documents are available [here](#)). The aerial survey should provide a fishery-independent index of relative abundance of spawning stock biomass.

Specific sighting forms have been developed in previous years for the ICCAT GBYP Aerial Survey, along with an [ICCAT GBYP Protocol](#).

In 2017, the aerial survey was resumed, limiting the survey only to the four overlapping areas as defined by the [last analysis](#). Furthermore, due to the very tight schedule, it was recommended to monitor the survey data in real time, so as to detect any possible bias and immediately correct the survey reporting, in order for the data to be available for the SCRS BFT Stock Assessment Session to be held in Madrid, 20 to 28 July, 2017.

Funds have been made available under ICCAT GBYP Phase 7, for covering the costs related to the support activities for the aerial survey for spawning aggregations.

ICCAT is publishing this announcement so as to select individual experts, public institutions or private entities to submit offers to provide the various services for supporting the aerial survey activity in 2017.

#### 2 Contractor tasks (TORs)

The Contractor shall provide various products and services, including a final comprehensive report, as detailed:

- I. Provide the aerial survey design, including mandatory and extra tracks, for the four overlapping areas as defined by the last power analysis; the aerial survey design should include mandatory tracks for a total between 31,500 and 32,000 km, using several replicates and the overlapping areas shall be individually designed. The full aerial survey design data sets will be attached to the Call for tenders for carrying out the activity in 2017.
- II. Revise the aerial survey protocol where necessary and possibly improve the aerial survey sighting forms, taking into account the previous experience.
- III. Provide training assistance by two experts on the protocol and sighting forms during the ICCAT GBYP Aerial Survey Training Course for the activity in 2017 (1 day in Madrid, date to be decided), revising the available presentations.
- IV. Provide real-time assistance for revising the contents of the sighting forms that shall be provided on a weekly basis by each team engaged in the aerial survey activity in 2017, providing advice to

the individual teams in order to solve any potential problem and improve the reporting and data quality.

- V. Provide a real-time analysis of all the data collected by the ICCAT GBYP aerial survey in 2017, by overlapping area, using the same methodology already applied in previous surveys, with the objective to make all data comparable and the report available for the SCRS BFT Stock Assessment Session (Madrid, 20 to 28 July, 2017).

### 3 Deliverables

- #1 The aerial survey design for 2017, to be submitted by **XX March 2017 at the latest**, including the following:
- a) Full aerial survey design for the four overlapping areas as they were identified in the [last analysis](#) report, including mandatory tracks for a total between 31,500 and 32,000 km, using several replicates and extra additional tracks, in order to apply the Distance methodology;
  - b) The design shall be separated by each individual overlapping area and shall include the initial and final coordinate of each transect, along with the map of the transects by area.
- #2 A revised version of the ICCAT GBYP aerial survey protocol and a revised version of the ICCAT GBYP aerial survey sighting forms.
- #3 A revised version of the PowerPoint presentations to be used by the Contractor during the ICCAT GBYP Aerial Survey Training Course 2017.
- #4 A weekly short report concerning the desk monitoring activity of the weekly sighting forms provided by each team, the problems encountered and the remedies adopted for solving them and enhancing the quality of the survey data.
- #5 A draft final report in English shall be submitted at the latest by **18 July 2017**, including the following:
- Map the distribution of bluefin tuna spawners by overlapping area (on efforts and off effort).
  - A summary table following the same approach of previous surveys (click [here](#)), with the objective of comparing the aerial survey results by area and year.
  - Analyse the data by overlapping area, showing the distribution of sightings according to Distance categories and following the same methodology used in previous analyses (click [here](#)). Provide estimates of abundance by overlapping area with appropriate estimates of uncertainty (CV), possibly including sources of additional variance if available.
  - Provide a detailed report concerning the aerial survey carried out in 2017, including an executive summary.
  - A PowerPoint draft presentation for the SCRS.
- #6 The final report, to be prepared taking into account any comments provided by the ICCAT GBYP, and the full administrative report including any administrative documents, to be submitted by **31 July 2017**, at the latest.

This contract completion date is **31 July 2017**.

### 4 Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented experience in aerial survey design and analyses; previous experience in aerial surveys for tuna species will be preferred;
- Documented experience in the Distance technique;
- PhD or University degree in biological, natural, environmental or fishery sciences or related fields;
- 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.

## 5 Request for proposal

Interested expert(s) should submit a proposal to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the following address: [driss.meski@iccat.int](mailto:driss.meski@iccat.int) by **12 March 2017**, including:

- a) Acknowledgment of this Call for tenders (**ICCAT GBYP 01/2017**).
- b) A detailed proposal, based on the objective of this Invitation (TORs). Departures from the TORs may be made with detailed justification.
- c) The *curriculum vitae* of the institution, including the full address.
- d) An estimated total budget for carrying out the work (overheads to cover administrative and general costs could be admitted within a maximum limit of 10% of the personnel costs, only if a detailed budget is provided). Being a short-term contract, the budget will be expressed as a lump sum figure.
- e) The name, address, and telephone number for contact purposes of the expert(s).
- f) The bank account of the expert/entity (bank name, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes) and, if applicable, the VAT/TAX identification code.
- g) A declaration that the expert(s) or entity (s) will follow the terms of the present invitation, and/or approved modifications agreed upon, and the administrative rules specified in the contract.
- h) A declaration that the comments eventually made on the draft final report (**Deliverable #5**) will be incorporated in the final report (**Deliverable #6**).
- i) A declaration that the expert(s) or entity(s) is covered by full insurance for the work to be carried out according to the present invitation, excluding ICCAT from all responsibility concerning the job to be done.
- j) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein, particularly specifying the date for providing the aerial survey design (**Deliverable #1**), the draft final report (**Deliverable #5**) and the date for the final report (**Deliverable #6**).

The Contractor should be available to attend and report to any meeting requested by ICCAT; these costs will be paid on the basis of an addendum to the contract.

## 6 Payment details

Taking into account the very strict schedule for carrying out the work, 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 **Deliverable #6** upon addressing comments by ICCAT and the approval of any administrative document.

### *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.

## 7 Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor within the scope of this invitation shall remain the property of the ICCAT GBYP for the uses of GBYP and may not, in any case, be circulated by the Contractor. The scientific use of the data provided under this invitation by the Contractor shall always be notified to ICCAT in advance.

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