



Madrid, 23 April 2019

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # 0347/2019

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 07/2019 - AERIAL SURVEY FOR BLUEFIN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS – AERIAL SURVEY DESIGN, PROTOCOL, TRAINING COURSE, REAL-TIME DATA MONITORING, DATA ANALYSIS AND DATA RE-ANALYSIS ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP - PHASE 9)

I should like to transmit the Call for Tenders ICCAT 07/2019 - Aerial survey for bluefin spawning aggregations – aerial survey design, protocol, training course, real-time data monitoring, data analysis and data re-analysis - Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this Call for tenders to qualified people and institutions that might be interested.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

 Executive Secretary




Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary

Distribution:

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Attachment: Call for Tenders 07/2019.

CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 07/2019

AERIAL SURVEY FOR BLUEFIN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS – AERIAL SURVEY DESIGN, PROTOCOL, TRAINING COURSE, REAL-TIME DATA MONITORING, DATA ANALYSIS AND DATA RE-ANALYSIS ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP – PHASE 9)

1 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. Currently almost all the data used in stock assessments are obtained from fisheries-dependent data, which can be affected by changes in exploitation patterns and TACs. 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.

Consequently, one of the major research tasks under the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) is the aerial survey for spawning aggregations, which has already been carried out under different strategies in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018 (all documents are available [here](#)), providing a fishery-independent index of relative abundance of spawning stock biomass.

In 2019, the aerial survey will be limited only to the four overlapping areas, following the methodology that has already been developed. However, the [Design](#) will be slightly adjusted so that the survey areas better match the areas where bluefin tuna presumably spawn (namely area A). The GBYP Aerial Survey [Protocol](#) will also be updated, as well as the [Sighting Forms](#), if necessary. Furthermore, survey data will be monitored in real time, so as to detect any possible bias and immediately correct the survey reporting. The survey data will be analysed following a similar methodology and the index of relative abundance of spawning stock biomass will be produced. Finally, given the changes in methodology, all historical GBYP aerial survey data will be re-analysed in order to produce standardized series of the abundance index.

Funds will be made available under GBYP Phase 9, for covering the costs related to support activities for the aerial survey for spawning aggregations.

ICCAT has issued this Call for Tenders so as to select the individual experts, public institutions or private entities that submit the best offers for provision of the the various services for supporting aerial survey activity in 2019.

2 Contractor tasks (TORs)

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

- I. Elaborate an optimized design of area A, taking into account the distribution of bluefin tuna spawners during the spawning season (the details will be provided by GBYP).
- 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 2019 (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 will be provided on a weekly basis by each team engaged in the aerial survey activity in 2019, providing advice to the individual teams in order to solve any potential problem and improve the reporting and data quality.

- V. Provide the analysis of all the data collected by the GBYP aerial survey in 2019, by area, using the same methodology already applied in previous surveys and produce the index of relative abundance of spawning stock biomass.
- VI. Provide the re-analysis of aerial survey data collected by the GBYP for overlapping areas in previous years with the objective to correct possible errors and provide standardized series of abundance index. The data will be re-analyzed, taking into account the new definition of area A and correcting potential errors. In that respect, a special effort will be made to clean the data, in order to ensure that all these refer to adult and not juvenile bluefin tuna.

3 Deliverables

- #1 A new design of area A, which will be submitted by **20 May 2019**, at the latest.
- #2 A revised version of the GBYP aerial survey protocol and a revised version of the GBYP aerial survey sighting forms which will be submitted by **20 May 2019**, at the latest.
- #3 A revised version of the PowerPoint presentations to be used by the Contractor during the 2019 ICCAT GBYP Aerial Survey Training Course, which will be submitted at the latest 1 week before the Training Course (date to be decided by GBYP).
- #4 A short weekly 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 In relation to the 2019 survey, a draft final report in English will be submitted by **22 July 2019** at the latest, and will include 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, with the objective of comparing the aerial survey results by area and year.
 - Data analysis by overlapping area, showing the distribution of sightings according to Distance categories and following the same methodology as used in previous analyses. 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 2019, including an executive summary.
 - A PowerPoint draft presentation for the SCRS.
- #6 The final report on the 2019 survey, to be prepared taking into account any comments provided by the GBYP, which is to be submitted by **29 July 2019**, at the latest.
- #7 In relation to the re-analysis of the data of surveys from previous years (2010-2018), a draft final report in English will be submitted by **2 September 2019** at the latest, and will include the following:
 - Map the distribution of bluefin tuna spawners by overlapping area, by year (on efforts and off effort).
 - A summary table, by year, following the same approach of previous surveys, with the objective of comparing the aerial survey results by area and year.
 - Re-analysis of data, by overlapping area, showing the distribution of sightings according to Distance categories and following the same methodology as used in previous analyses. Provide estimates of abundance by overlapping area with appropriate estimates of uncertainty (CV), by year, possibly including sources of additional variance if available.
 - Provide a detailed report concerning the methodological changes and changes in results, compared to the previous ones, including an executive summary.
 - A draft PowerPoint presentation.
- #8 In relation to the reanalysis of the data of surveys from previous years (2010-2018), the final report, to be prepared taking into account any comments provided by the GBYP, and the full administrative report including any administrative documents, to be submitted by **9 September 2019**, at the latest.

The completion date of this contract is **9 September 2019**.

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). Sound knowledge of English is highly desirable.

5 Request for proposals

Interested expert(s) should submit a proposal to the attention of Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary, with copy to Ms. Ana Martinez, at the following address: camille.manel@iccat.int and ana.martinez@iccat.int, by **8 May 2019**, including:

- a) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders (**ICCAT GBYP 07/2019**).
- b) A detailed proposal, based on the TORs of this Call for Tenders. 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. 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 this Call for Tenders, and/or any 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 into the final report (**Deliverable #6**) and that the comments eventually made on the draft final report (**Deliverable #7**) will be incorporated in the final report (**Deliverable #8**).
- i) A declaration that the expert(s) or entity(s) is covered by full insurance for the work to be carried out according to this Call for Tenders, excluding ICCAT from all responsibility concerning the work to be performed.
- j) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein, particularly specifying the date for providing the new design for area A (**Deliverable #1**), the draft final report (**Deliverable #5**), final report (**Deliverable #6**), re-analysis draft report (**Deliverable #7**) and re-analysis final report (**Deliverable #8**).

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 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 **signature of the contract**;
2. 25% after the approval of **Deliverable #6** upon addressing comments by ICCAT;
3. 25% after the approval of **Deliverable #8** upon addressing comments by ICCAT and approval of any administrative document;

7 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.

8 Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor within the scope of this Call for Tenders will remain the property of the GBYP for the uses of GBYP and may not, in any case, be distributed by the Contractor. Scientific use of the data provided under this Call for Tenders by the Contractor will always be notified to ICCAT in advance.

For further information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact the GBYP Coordinator at the following address: franciso.alemany@iccat.int