INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 23 December 2019

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # G-1367 / 2019

SUBJECT: **TERMS OF REFERENCE - CALL FOR TENDERS GBYP 01/2020 - BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING HABITAT MODELLING - ATLANTIC WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP PHASE 9)**

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached Call for Tenders ICCAT GBYP 1/2020 for "Bluefin tuna spawning habitat modelling" of the ICCAT GBYP Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (Phase 9).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

P.O

M'hamed Idrissi
Compliance Officer

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Attachment: Call for Tenders GBYP 1/2020.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
CALL FOR TENDERS GBYP 01/2020
BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING HABITAT MODELLING
ATLANTIC WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP Phase 9)

Background and objectives

The main objectives of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) are to improve basic data collection, the understanding of key biological and ecological processes, assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status.

One of the most important elements of this Programme is to provide fishery-independent indices. Up to now, most of efforts to this end have been focused on conducting aerial surveys in the Mediterranean Sea, where the bluefin tuna schools are traditionally sighted close to the surface during the spawning period, to elaborate an abundance index of eastern stock spawning biomass. So far, GBYP has obtained a 7-year long series of aerial survey index. Nevertheless, the analysis of aerial survey data showed the strong inter-annual and spatial variability in the different components (encounter rate of groups, mean weight and mean school size), among years and areas and, consequently, no clear patterns in spawning stock abundance have been detected, neither at global level nor in most of the surveyed areas. There are some indications that these inconsistencies might have been caused, among other factors, by environmental conditions that affected the timing of migration, the spatial distribution at sub-regional scales and vertical distribution of bluefin tuna spawners, which have biased the results.

The importance of population abundance indices standardization, both fishery dependent and fishery independent ones, and the need for considering the environmental variability within the assessment process have been reiteratively recognized by the ICCAT SCRS.

On the other hand, the recent discovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna larvae in areas out of the recognized ABFT spawning areas (Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean Sea), such as the Slope Sea and Bay of Biscay, has confirmed what had been hypothesized decades ago by several authors, that is, the existence of alternative spawning grounds in the Atlantic.

As a way of contributing to the reduction of uncertainty in stock assessment and providing robust management advice, it was decided, following GBYP Steering Committee advice, that the GBYP programme should support the development of bluefin tuna habitat models, focusing on the characterization of spawning habitats and paying special attention to the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. The aim of these modelling activities would be, firstly, to establish the basis for standardizing indices that can be affected by the spatial and temporal variability of spawning, such as the aerial survey index and, secondly to provide information about potential spawning habitats that could optimize the design of sampling activities to detect and/or characterize further bluefin tuna spawning areas.

To facilitate these modelling tasks, GBYP will provide to the awarded bidder the available information about position of sightings of BFT schools from GBYP aerial surveys.

Contractor tasks

The Contractor, who will work in close consultation with the ICCAT GBYP Coordinator and the GBYP Steering Committee, will provide a model of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock spawning habitat, identifying the factors that constitute the main drivers of the temporal and spatial distribution of the adults of this species during the spawning period.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience in marine populations habitat modelling or closely related fields; previous experience in bluefin tuna studies is preferred.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French and Spanish). Sound knowledge of English is highly desirable.

Request for bids

Interested experts or entities should submit an offer to the ICCAT Executive Secretary (camille.manel@iccat.int), with copy to Ms. Ana Martinez (ana.martinez@iccat.int) by **15 January 2020**, including:

a) A detailed offer, indicating the modelling approach and detailing the base data sets available for carrying out the study;
b) In the case of entities, the curriculum of the entity, with any documented experience in the field, including recent and relevant contracts;
c) The curriculum of the main expert(s) with any documented experience in the field, including recent and relevant references;
d) An estimated total budget for carrying out the work. The budget will be expressed as a lump sum figure;
e) A detailed list of any subcontracting activities. Subcontracts can account for up to a maximum of 40% of the budget;
f) The full name, address and tax/VAT number of the expert/entity;
g) In case of entities, and the name and the contact details of the person in charge of administration;
h) The full name of the technical/scientific expert and contact details;
i) The bank account of the expert/entity (bank name, bank address, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes);
j) A signed declaration that the expert/entity will follow the terms of the present Call (TORs), and/or approved modifications agreed upon, and the administrative rules specified in the contract;
k) A signed declaration that the comments eventually made on the draft final report (Deliverable #1) will be incorporated in the final report (Deliverable #2).
l) A signed declaration that the expert or entity is covered by full insurance for the work to be carried out according to the present TORs, excluding ICCAT from all responsibility concerning the work to be performed.
m) A signed statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein, particularly specifying the date for providing the draft final report (Deliverable #1) and the date for the final report (Deliverable #2).

Offers that fail to furnish the required documentation or information, or reject the terms and conditions of the Call for tenders may be excluded from consideration.

Contractors can be either individual experts or entities (research institutions such as government or private laboratories, universities, or private consultancy firms etc.) having the required qualifications.

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

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers and will decide on the contract to be awarded. The awarded entity will be notified shortly afterwards.

Deliverables

1. A draft final report (Deliverable #1) to be submitted at the latest by **15 April 2020**, including:

    a) Full description of the work carried out;
    b) Detailed description of the methodology;
    c) Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning habitat model;
    d) Scientific report, prepared taking into account the relevant literature, including summary;
    e) A PowerPoint presentation of the main results for ICCAT SCRS meeting.

2. The definitive final report (Deliverable #2), to be prepared taking into account the eventual comments provided by ICCAT, to be submitted by **28 April 2020**, at the latest.

Payment details

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 #2** upon addressing comments by ICCAT.

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 of the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of ICCAT GBYP and it must be kept confidential.