

**ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP)**  
**GBYP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Madrid 10, 11 and 12 September 2010**  
**MEETING REPORT**

The GBYP Steering Committee meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat on 10, 11 and 12 September 2010, with the participation of the Steering Committee members except Dr. Tom Polacheck. Dr. Antonio Di Natale (GBYP Coordinator), Dr. Laurence Kell and Dr. Mauricio Ortiz (ICCAT Secretariat) were invited to the meeting.

The meeting was called after the information, provided by the ICCAT Secretariat and the GBYP Coordinator, concerning the new budget figures available for the contract with the European Commission, which is the main co-funder of GBYP, and after the discussions on various research issues during the Bluefin tuna assessment meeting.

## **1. Budget updating and reduction.**

### **1.1 Updated figures about the budget funding.**

The GBYP Coordinator informed the Steering Committee about the availability of funds from the European Commission for supporting the GBYP activities in the next two years. According to the general reduction of budget, the main co-funder of the GBYP informed that the European Commission will be able to provide 2,000,000 euro for each following phase (year 2 and 3 of the GBYP). The Coordinator informed about the potential possibility have additional funding for phase 3, depending on the eventual availability of residual non-used funds from other activities, but this eventuality cannot be forecast at the moment and any additional funding will be agreed with an amendment to the 2-year co-funding contract between the European Commission and the ICCAT Secretariat.

The Steering Committee discussed about the implication of this new budget figure on the general GBYP research activities for the two following years. The Steering Committee noted that the new figures are lower than the already considered low figure used for phase 2 in the previous meeting.

The Steering Committee agreed that the GBYP should be carried out according to the Programme written by the SCRS and confirmed by the ICCAT Commission and decided to keep the budget as it was discussed and agreed in the Steering Committee meeting on September 4-5, 2010 as the objective to properly conduct the Programme.

Anyway, taking into account the concrete budget availabilities and the contingency, the Steering Committee requested the GBYP Coordinator to provide a revised and reduced version of the budget for the two next years of the Programme, taking into account the following constrains:

- a) reducing the support staff for the Programme to one administrative support (G2-1) and a professional scientific support (P2);
- b) eliminate the eggs and larval survey;
- c) reduce the funds available for the aerial surveys on spawning aggregations;
- d) reduce the funds available for data mining and data recovery;
- e) reduce the funds available for tagging;
- f) bring the total reduced budget figure around 2,500,000 Euro per year.

The Steering Committee reiterates its point of view that this minimum reduced budget will be considered as a provisional figure and that more funds should be necessary require bettering fulfilling the engagement required both by the SCRS and the Commission.

### **1.2 Minimum reduced budget for GBYP in phase 2 and 3.**

The Coordinator presented the new GBYP minimum reduced budget for phase 2 and phase 3 of the Programme, in agreement with the guidelines provided by the Steering Committee.

It was necessary to revise almost all components and figures in the general agreed budget to reach a total amount close to 2,500,000 euro per year, always taking into account the need to provide enough funds to carry out the various scientific activities in a serious way, even under the contingency constrains and the budget reduction. All original budget components have been reduced in different ways and the larval surveys have been actually removed and eventually delayed to following phases.

The Steering Committee examined and discussed all the various changes and reductions, noting that the current figures are considered a limit below which it should be necessary to delete entirely some scientific activities because of the need to ensure a solid scientific base for those that shall be conducted. The Steering Committee agreed about the new minimum and reduced budget (annex 1a), asking the ICCAT Secretariat and the Coordinator to rely on it for discussing the next co-funding agreement with the European Commission.

The Steering Committee agreed that if additional funds will be made available from any CPC, entity or external sponsors, these will be used to improve the high priority researches till reaching the total amount agreed in the original budget for phase 2 and 3 of the Programme. The Steering Committee requests the ICCAT Secretariat and the GBYP Coordinator to continue working on external contact and to inform the Steering Committee in real time about any eventual improvement in budget figures.

## **2. Proposals for additional activities to be included in the GBYP**

2.1 Some additional scientific activities have been proposed and agreed by the bluefin tuna scientists during the 2010 Bluefin tuna assessment meeting. In particular, the Steering Committee considered that the proposals to recover and analyse the historical detailed data series from about 1880 to 1950 from the Portuguese tuna traps from archives existing in Portugal and in the Monaco Oceanographic Museum, which will be able to provide important data to better understand the historical evolution of this fishery, provides a very interesting opportunity and recommended that this should be considered within the data recovery activity.

2.2 The Steering Committee also considers that the proposal to organize a Bluefin tuna trap fishery symposium, proposed by scientists from various CPCs (annex 2a) is potentially able either to improve the standardization and analysis of the tuna trap fishery data and to better use the sampling and tagging opportunities provided by the traps. The Steering Committee recommended that this proposal should be considered within the data recovery activities, if the budget will allow the cover the costs.

### **3. Other issues**

The Steering Committee discussed about the meetings hold with tenders according to the calendar set in the previous meeting. The proposal concerning the tagging design should be revised and the ICCAT Secretariat is recommended to ask for this revision to the tender, in order to have a proposal including the following points:

- a) a tagging design for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Mediterranean Sea, for traditional tags and PITs;
- b) a workshop to be organized with the purpose to identify the opportunities and best practices to carry out the tagging activities in tuna traps, particularly taking advantage of fish to be released, with the participation of trap owners or their associations;
- c) a workshop to be organized with the purpose to identify the opportunities and best practices to carry out the tagging activities from tuna purse seines, with the participation of purse-seiner owners or their associations;
- d) an operational tagging manual including the operational details and protocols for the two types of tags required and for the various tagging activities.

As concerns the proposal to carry out growth studies in tuna cages in Malta, the Steering Committee hold a meeting with the tender and requested the proposal to be fully revised, with the aim to double tagging the fish and find the best technical ways to estimate both size composition of tuna going to cages and their growth for various year classes. The proposal should also include fishes to be released in the wild after tagging.

<b>ICCAT GBYP</b>				
<b>PHASE 2 (2010-2011) AND PHASE 3 (2011-2012) REDUCED MINIMUM BUDGET</b>				
<b>ALLOCATION</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>			
	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>total 2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>total 2011-2012</b>
<b>Coordination</b>		443000,00		448980,00
Coordinator's salary and benefits	142100,00		144942,00	
Support staff salary and benefits (G2-1 and P2)	136900,00		139638,00	
Contracts for external Steering Committee members	60000,00		60000,00	
Travel and subsistence	70000,00		71400,00	
Computer hardware and software	6000,00		5000,00	
Consumables and supplies	3000,00		3000,00	
ICCAT Secretariat overhead	25000,00		25000,00	
<b>Data mining, data retrieval and data elaboration (external contracts)</b>		149000,00		123000,00
Data mining and data retrieval exercise (including data collection on juveniles from small scale and recreational fisheries, Workshop on trana trap data, VMS, environmental and other data elaboration)	137000,00		110000,00	
Aerial survey data elaboration.	12000,00		13000,00	
<b>Aerial surveys</b>		465000,00		404080,00
Aerial surveys (external contracts)	410000,00		400000,00	
Survey design revision and adaptation (external contract)	4000,00		4080,00	
Intercalibration exercise (direct costs including aircraft and external staff)	0,00		0,00	
Training course (direct costs, including external experts)	21000,00		0,00	
Workshop on aerial survey (direct costs, including travels and subsistence for external experts)	30000,00		0,00	
<b>Tagging</b>		890000,00		965000,00
Conventional and PITs tagging (external contracts)	550000,00		700000,00	
PITs readers	80000,00		5000,00	
Electronic tagging (external contracts)	0,00		100000,00	
tags	60000,00		30000,00	
Tags recovery, tags reporting and rewards (partly external contracts)	150000,00		100000,00	
various	50000,00		30000,00	
<b>Biological sampling (external contracts)</b>		505000,00		490000,00
Hard parts sampling (including travels for samplers)	300000,00		310000,00	
Genetic sampling (including design)	75000,00		50000,00	
Analysis of samples	100000,00		100000,00	
other costs	30000,00		30000,00	
<b>Eggs and larval sampling (external contracts)</b>		0,00		0,00
Eggs and larval sampling design			0,00	
Eggs and larval survey				
Sorting, species identification labour, etc.				
<b>Modelling</b>		40000,00		90000,00
Workshop on modelling approaches	40000,00			
Modelling trials (mostly external contracts)			90000,00	
<b>Contingencies</b>		10000,00		13000,00
<b>Total reduced minimum budget</b>		<b>2.502.000,00</b>		<b>2.534.060,00</b>