

# ICCAT-GBYP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Madrid, 24 September 2014

## 1. Opening of the meeting

The GBYP Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat on 24 September 2014, with the participation of Messrs. Sylvain Bonhommeau, Driss Meski, Clay Porch and Josu Santiago. Messrs. Paul de Bruyn (ICCAT Statistical Department) and Antonio Di Natale (GBYP Coordinator), from the ICCAT Secretariat, also attended the meeting.

All reports concerning the last activities done in Phase 4 had been circulated to the Steering Committee in advance. Other documents, including copies of the latest exchange of mails, the time plan for the future of the GBYP, a table for the same document, a copy of the budget proposed by the SC for Phase 5 in 2013 and a short summary of the discussion on trade, market and auction data were distributed at the meeting (see Appendix 3). Each member of the SC signed the conflict of interest forms as agreed in 2011.

## 2. Review of action items from previous meetings

The SC reviewed the actions which were included in the extension of the GBYP Phase 4, as they have been approved by the European Union in the amendment to the grant agreement which is providing most of the funds to the GBYP. All actions were those proposed by the SC during previous e-mail discussions. All next actions must be completed before the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, final date for Phase 4.

The SC recommends the following actions and modifications:

- 1) Tagging: Due to the lack of juveniles in this time of the year in two areas where there was the plan for tagging several fish (the information was communicated to GBYP by the two institutions who carried out the tagging in the same areas in 2013 and it seems caused by an anomalous oceanographic and climate situation), and to the difficulties for putting in place a tagging activity in another area, the SC recommends to use the available funds for acquiring the maximum possible number of electronic tags. The GBYP Coordinator is requested to check with the EC Project Officer which formal steps (if any) are necessary for this change.
- 2) Biological studies: the SC recommends collecting samples of young of the year (YOY) at least in Turkey, Spain, Italy and Morocco. Due to the fact that the contract with the Consortium was already expired, the SC recommends immediately releasing contracts to the institutions or individual scientists already involved in the previous contract which will be able to provide the necessary samples within the very short time available. The GBYP Coordinator is requested to investigate as soon as possible the availabilities and the necessary budgets, within the limits of the available funds for this budget item.
- 3) Overview reports: the SC, taking into account the information provided by Mr. Porch on a close-kin genetic tagging study being conducted for western Atlantic bluefin tuna, recommends developing a preliminary appraisal of the costs of a similar program for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna. This should be done in collaboration with experts having local knowledge of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean populations. A short-term contract is needed to facilitate this collaboration and to support travel costs for a meeting in the USA..

## 3. Review of action items from previous meetings

The SC reviewed the list of action items from previous meeting, as they were decided for the inclusion in Phase 5. It noted that some changes and improvements will be necessary, due to the delay for beginning Phase 5 and the new knowledge available for some main budget chapters.

The SC, after discussion, recommended the following modifications in the budget table for the GBYP Phase 5:

### A) Coordination:

A1) GBYP Staff: the SC recommends hiring two staff, one for data analyses and data assistance (with GIS use capabilities) and one as support and assistance for the many duties of the Coordinator; the SC recommended the Coordinator to check the possible level options with the ICCAT Secretariat and adjust the budget accordingly.

A2) Travels: the budget for travels should be slightly improved, taking into account the following point.

A5) Contracts for external Steering Committee members: the SC recommends improving the support from external members, asking for a second external member. Therefore, the budget should be revised and set at

40,000 euro per year, in total. The SC recommends taking the necessary steps for having the formal approval from the Commission.

B) Data mining, retrieval and elaboration

B1a) Data mining: The SC acknowledge the discovery of a high quantity of bluefin tuna vertebras, recovered by the University of Istanbul and reported to SCRS (doc. SCRS/2014/167) and covering a period of 8 centuries, starting from IV a.C.; these samples can provide very useful genetic data on the old eastern Mediterranean/Black Sea population components. The SC recommends the Coordinator to assess the budget and include this item in Phase 5.

B1b) Data recovery: The SC discussed about the need to acquire SST data to be used for updating the prediction model which uses the aerial survey data; Mr. Bonhommeau informed the SC that these data can be made available to GBYP for free by his team, without any need to use funds for this item.

B2a) Data standardization and basic analyses: The SC notes that this budget item covered the short-time contract previously used for an external assistance; taking into account the previous point A1), the SC recommends the Coordinator to check with the ICCAT Secretariat the best way for dealing with this need and set the budget accordingly.

B2c) Market data analyses: the SC considered the outcomes provided by the SCRS BFT Data Preparatory Meeting in May 2014 and then recommended the Coordinator to remove this budget item from Phase 5 budget.

C) Aerial survey:

C3) Aerial survey activity: the SC recognized that the budget originally set for this item was underestimated and recommended the Coordinator to improve the budget up to the best estimated amount, without going over a maximum of 600,000 euro.

C4) Calibration: the SC, even recognizing the serious difficulties for carrying out a calibration with many different pilots and observers, recommended the Coordinator to keep this budget item, improving the budget as necessary, taking into account that the available estimation was in the order of 90,000 euro.

D) Tagging:

D2) Tagging trials with purse seiners and tuna traps: the SC recommended to put tagging in the eastern Mediterranean as first priority, dedicating efforts for tagging in this area using both electronic (on adults or juveniles) and conventional tags (on juveniles), with the objective to implant about 50 miniPATs. The SC recommended the Coordinator to arrange all necessary actions, within the budget already set for this item.

D4) Tag rewards: taking into account the improved number of reported tags noticed in the last two years, the SC recommends the Coordinator to slightly improve this budget item up to 20,000 euro.

E) Biological studies:

E1) Ageing calibration: the SC acknowledged the good results provided by the first exercise carried out in 2014 (SCRS/2014/150) and recommends continuing the efforts for improving the technique, keeping this budget item for Phase 5.

F) Modelling:

F7) External expert assistance: the SC discussed this budget item and recommended the Coordinator to keep the budget at the level already agreed.

The proposed revised budget for Phase 5 is attached as Table 1.

#### 4. Future of the GBYP

The Steering Committee discussed the document previously circulated by e-mail by Mr. Polacheck and already revised by other members. The SC agrees about the current text and recommended the Coordinator to edit it according to the SCRS needs, attaching also the timetable provided during the meeting (table 2) and getting the SCRS document number from the ICCAT Secretariat. Mr. Santiago will present this document to SCRS Plenary and to the Commission.

#### 5. Stable funding

The Steering Committee discussed about the need of having a stable funding structure for the GBYP and, in agreement with previous recommendations provided by the SCRS, recommended that the adoption of a dedicated scientific quota should be requested again to the Commission, after the renewed endorsement by the SCRS. The text for the recommendation will be annex to the document listed in the above point.

Table 1.

<b>BUDGET AND ACTIONS FOR ICCAT GBYP PHASE 5</b>				
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>ALLOCATION</b>	<b>Revised budget set by GBYP SC (Sep. 2014)</b>	
<b>Phase 5</b>	<b>Original</b>		<b>detail</b>	<b>total Phase 4</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Coordination</b>		<b>430.000,00 €</b>
A.1	A.1	Coordinator's and supporting staffs salary and benefits	318.000,00 €	
A.2	A.2	Travels and subsistence (including SC)	50.000,00 €	
A.3	A.3	Computer hardware and software	5.000,00 €	
A.4	A.4	Consumables and supplies	7.000,00 €	
A.5	A.5	Contracts for external Steering Committee members	40.000,00 €	
A.6	A.6	ICCAT Secretariat overhead	10.000,00 €	
A.7				
<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Data mining, data retrieval and data elaboration (external contracts)</b>		<b>20.000,00 €</b>
B.1	B.1	Data mining and data retrieval exercise:		
	B.1a	Ottoman archives	- €	
	B.1b	Recent (2000-2011) data recovery	- €	
	B.1c	Historical data gaps including environment	- €	
	B.1d	model with thermocline data	- €	
	B.1e	Ancient genetic data recovery	20.000,00 €	
B.2	B.2	Data analyses activities:	- €	
	B.2a	Data standardisation and basic analyses	- €	
	B.2b	VMS Data Analysis	- €	
	B.2c	Market data analyses	- €	
<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Aerial surveys (note 1)</b>		<b>720.000,00 €</b>
C.1	C.1	Aerial survey Design revision & data analyses	15.000,00 €	
C.2	C.2	Workshop and training	15.000,00 €	
C.3	C.3	Aerial survey activity	600.000,00 €	
C.4	C.4	Calibration	90.000,00 €	
<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Tagging</b>		<b>1.210.000,00 €</b>
D.1		Conventional tagging in the Bay of Biscay and Strait of Gibraltar and meeting	500.000,00 €	
	D.1	Tagging trials with purse-seiners and tuna traps (including eastern Mediterranean)		
D.2			510.000,00 €	
D.3	D.2	Electronic tags	100.000,00 €	
	D.3	Conventional tags and applicators	20.000,00 €	
D.4	D.4	Tag rewards	20.000,00 €	
D.5	D.5	Tag liaison recovery and communication	60.000,00 €	
<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Biological Work (external contracts)</b>		<b>310.000,00 €</b>
E.1	E.1	Biological and genetic sampling & analyses;	285.000,00 €	
		Ageing calibration	15.000,00 €	
	E.2	Sampling operational meeting	- €	
E.2	E.3	Larval workshop	10.000,00 €	
	E.3	other costs	- €	
<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Modelling</b>		<b>135.000,00 €</b>
	F.1a	Technical meetings on modelling	25.000,00 €	
	F.1b	GBYP methods meeting	- €	
	F.2	Risk analysis (external contract)+travels	- €	
	F.3	Historical data analysis (external contract)	- €	
	F.4	Coordinator "Operating Models"	40.000,00 €	
	F.5	Alternative management advice frameworks	- €	
F.1	F.6	Managements procedures (ext.contract)	- €	
F.2	F.7	External expert assistance for initial models development	70.000,00 €	
	F.8	Performing simulation trials (external contracts)	- €	
		<b>Total revised reduced minimum budget</b>		<b>2.825.000,00 €</b>

**Table 2.** Revised time table for an extended and revised ICCAT GBYP programme, according to the research needs identified by the Steering Committee, the minimum number of years needed for obtain trends for fishery independent data and the calendar adopted by the SCRS for the new Modelling approaches. The first year of the programme (2009) was not included, due to the lack of activity. The fishery independent data shall be collected continuously also in future years, while tagging should be done periodically.

ICCAT GBYP REVISED RESEARCH PROGRAMME												
ACTIVITY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Coordination												
Data mining and recovery												
Biological studies												
Aerial survey*												
Tagging activities*												
Fishery independent indices*												
Modelling												
ABFT GBYP Conference												
* Aerial survey and tagging activities have been included under the item "Fishery independent indices" for the next years.												