

A Proposal to Set Up an ICCAT Year Research Program on Small Tunas (SMTYP)

Overview

The status of small tuna stocks in the ICCAT Convention area is generally unknown. Nevertheless, these species have a high socio-economic relevance for a considerable number of local communities at the regional level, which depend on landings of these species for their livelihoods.

Fisheries statistics and biological data which can provide a basis for assessing these resources and thus providing the Commission with the appropriate scientific advice for their sustainable exploitation are generally unavailable for these species.

To deal with this issue and to achieve the objectives established by the 2008 Joint ICCAT GFCM Working Group (Anon. 2009a), it is now high time to establish an ICCAT Year Research Program for Small Tunas (SMTYP), whose main objective for the first two years will be the collection of statistics and biological data as well as the recovery of all the historical available data in the main fishing areas, with a focus on the priority species identified by the ICCAT/GFCM in 2008. This program has a wide geographical sampling coverage to include also the Caribbean Sea.

January-December 2013:

Priority for the collection of historical available data (statistical and biological data) in the main fishing area:

- Mediterranean and Black Sea: Bullet tuna, Atlantic bonito, little tunny and plain bonito;
- West Africa: Atlantic bonito, little tunny, bullet tuna, West African Spanish mackerel, frigate tuna, wahoo;
- Caribbean area: Blackfin tuna, king mackerel and Serra Spanish mackerel.

July 2014

An inter-sessional data preparatory meeting to analyse the collected data in the main areas. The national scientists are responsible for submitting the data to the ICCAT Secretariat prior to the data preparatory meeting.

September -October 2014

Presentation of the preliminary results to the 2014 species group and SCRS meetings.

Potential participating countries in the SMT Year program and the estimated budget by area

<i>Sampling area</i>	<i>Participating CPCs</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Budget (€)</i>
East Mediterranean	Turkey Greece	Bullet tuna, Atlantic bonito, little tunny and plain bonito	15,00000
Central Mediterranean	Tunisia Italy	Bullet tuna, Atlantic bonito, little tunny and plain bonito	15,000.00
Western Mediterranean	Morocco Spain	Bullet tuna, Atlantic bonito, little tunny and plain bonito	15,000.00
West Africa	Morocco Mauritania Senegal Cape Verde Côte Ivoire	Atlantic bonito, little tunny and plain bonito, frigate tuna West African Spanish mackerel, Wahoo	52,500.00

	Ghana Sao Tome		
Western Atlantic	Venezuela Brazil	Black fin tuna, Serra Spanish mackerel	15,000.00
TOTAL			112,500.00