

**Appendix 5****ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP)  
ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE SECOND PART OF PHASE 4 (2013-2014)****1. Introduction**

The Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna was officially adopted by SCRS and the ICCAT Commission in 2008, and it started officially at the end of 2009, with the objective to:

- a) Improve basic data collection, including fishery independent data;
- b) Improve understanding of key biological and ecological processes;
- c) Improve assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status.

The total budget of the programme was estimated at about 19 million Euros in six years, with the engagement of the European Union and some other Contracting Parties to contribute to this programme in 2009 and in the following years; the budget officially approved by the ICCAT Commission in 2008 was 19,075,000 Euro for 6 Phases. The initial year had costs for 653,874 Euro (against the original approved figure of 890,000 Euro), the second phase had costs for 2,318,849 Euro (against the original figure of 3,390,000 Euros), while the third phase had costs for 1,769,262 Euro (against the original approved figure of 5,845,000 Euro). The fourth phase has a total budget of 2,875,000 Euros (against the original approved figure of 5,195,000 Euros). The overall GBYP operating budget for the first three phases (a total of 4,742,086 Euro) is about 46.84% of what was requested by the SCRS (10,125,000 Euro). If we include the fourth Phase (estimating the full budget as used), then the total of the first four Phases reaches 7,491,086 (against the original figure of 15,320,000 euro), equal to about 48.9% of what had been approved by the Commission. These budget reductions had an impact on all activities carried out so far.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities were jointly committed by the European Union (80%), Canada, Croatia, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Turkey, United States of America, Chinese Taipei and the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs joined the funders in Phase 3 and 4, but some of them did not paid their contribution, even limiting the use of available funds, because the EU has a maximum percentage of contribution of 80%. Several private or public entities provided funds or in kind support.

The GBYP activity is supported by a twin programme carried out by NOAA-NMFS, which is focusing the research activities on the western Atlantic Ocean.

**2. Coordination activities**

Phase 4 officially initiated on 21 January 2013 and will be completed by 9 December 2014.

Nine Calls for Tenders were issued in Phase 4, signing a total of 23 contracts. A total of 44 scientific papers and reports have been produced in Phase 4. GBYP participated in 17 meetings in various countries. The detailed report is available in document SCRS/2014/051. The activity was very reduced in 2014 due to budget constraints.

In total, the number of contracts provided by GBYP in the first four Phases is 69, including 82 entities, localised in 23 different countries; many hundreds of researchers and technicians have been working so far in the various GBYP activities; this large and open participation to ICCAT GBYP activities is considered to be one of the best results of this research programme.

The administrative and desk workload behind all coordination duties was extremely heavy and since the beginning of 2014 the GBYP staff was reduced to the Coordinator only.

A mid-term review of ICCAT-GBYP was carried out in Phase 4 and the report is available on SCRS/2013/178.

### **3. Steering Committee**

The members of the Steering Committee are the Chair of SCRS, Dr. Josu Santiago, the BFT-W Rapporteur, Ph.D. Clay Porch, the BFT-E Rapporteur, Ph.D. Sylvain Bonhommeau (who replaced Ph.D. Jean-Marc Fromentin from December 2013), the ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, and the external expert, Ph.D. Tom Polacheck, who was contracted for this duty.

The activity of the Steering Committee included continuous and constant e-mail contacts with the GBYP coordination, which provided the necessary information, issuing also a monthly report. In the Phase 4 the Steering Committee held two meetings (September 28-29, 2013 and September 22-26, 2014), discussing various aspects of the programme, providing guidance and opinions. The SC reports are available on <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/scommittee.htm>.

### **4. Data mining and data recovery**

The data mining and data recovery activity continued following the objectives recommended by the Steering Committee. A complete and detailed overview of the data recovered so far is available (see documents SCRS/2013/073, SCRS/2013/169, SCRS/2014/042 and SCRS/2014/049). The market and auction data provided to GBYP as a donation in kind have been preliminary validated (SCRS/2014/042) and they will be examined by SCRS. Task II data collect by GBYP are now on the ICCAT BFT data base.

### **5. Aerial survey**

ICCAT-GBYP issued a Call for tenders and four contracts were awarded in 2013. A training course for pilots, professional spotters and scientific observers was held at the Secretariat on 6 June 2013. The survey was conducted in most of the Mediterranean areas thanks to the cooperation of various ICCAT CPCs, but permits were not available for Algeria, Libya, Albania, Montenegro and Syria air spaces. Besides several operational difficulties and constraints and thanks to the strong cooperation of the four Companies in charge of the survey, finally it was possible to get all final reports.

The aerial survey data have been analysed, providing an external contract, and the final report was recently made available (see <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/asurvey.htm>). The data collected in Phase 4 confirmed the validity of the approach adopted in Phase 1 and 2 and showed an increasing abundance of spawners in the areas where the time frame was within the usual limits. At the same time, this last survey was extremely useful for better planning future aerial surveys. No aerial survey was conducted in 2014 due to budget constraints.

### **6. Tagging**

Thanks to the tags acquired in previous Phases, it was not necessary to buy additional conventional tags in Phase 4, while it was necessary to buy a total of 9,845 applicators for double-dart conventional tags and 35 mini-PATs, for carrying out the activities in Phase 4.

#### ***6.1 Conventional and electronic tagging activity***

The tagging activity in Phase 3 was partly reported during the SCRS and the Commission meeting in 2013, because it was completed during the extension period. The final report of the tagging activity is on [http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/TAGGING/PHASE%203/GBYP\\_TAGGING\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_PHASE\\_3.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/TAGGING/PHASE%203/GBYP_TAGGING_FINAL_REPORT_PHASE_3.pdf). The tagging activity in Phase 3 faced several operational problems, mostly due to causes of “*force majeure*” (bad weather, lack of fish at the surface in the selected areas, fishery technical accidents, etc.).

The tunas conventionally tagged in each area in Phase 3 are as follows: 3,413 in the Gulf of Biscay (41% double tagging), 1,489 in the area of the Strait of Gibraltar (80.4% double tagging); 313 in the western Mediterranean, including the opportunistic tagging by sport fishers (27.8% double tagging), and 97 in the central Mediterranean Sea. In total, 7,995 conventional tags were implanted, on 5312 bluefin tunas.

The tagging activity in Phase 4 was defined by the Steering Committee on 12-14 December 2012, including tagging by baitboats for juveniles and tentative tagging by purse-seiners for juveniles, by purse-seiners for adults and in traps for adults, in various areas of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. 5 contracts were awarded to four Consortia and one Company.

Even in the fourth year the field activity had some problems, mostly caused by the high level of technical difficulties and the experimental nature of some activities, but at the end the tagging was very successful; complimentary tagging in traps and by sport fishermen was also included. Further complimentary tagging activities were carried out in 2014. The tagging activities in Phase 4 so far are as follows: Bay of Biscay (3009 tagged fish, 53.4% double tagged); Canada (5 tagged fish, 100% double tagged); Morocco (273 tagged fish, 50.2% double tagging), Portugal (29 tagged fish, 58.6% double tagged), Strait of Gibraltar (2681 tagged fish, 53.1 double tagged), western Mediterranean (420 tagged fish, 1.7 double tagged) and central Mediterranean (1308 tagged fish, 38.1 double tagged). Double tagging includes also electronic tags.

Electronic tagging in Phase 4 was conducted in Morocco, Bay of Biscay, Strait of Gibraltar, Adriatic Sea and Canada. Complimentary activities were carried out by Ph.D. Barbara Block and her team (Stanford University) and by Ph.D. Alex Hanke and his team (St. Andrews Biological Station). A total of 40 miniPATs, 12 internal archival tags and 8 acoustic tags have been implanted in the various areas. Some of the tags had a premature detachment, but those of success are improving over the years.

The results provided by these tags are confirming that only a variable percentage of the bluefin tuna spawners arriving in spring to the Moroccan coasts are entering into the Mediterranean Sea, while the others move to various Atlantic areas. Some of the tagged tunas also went to very far areas from where bluefin tuna remained unnoticed for decades (Norway), and one of the tunas had recently reached Greenland. Intra-Mediterranean movements so far show that none of the tagged tunas went to the eastern Mediterranean areas. These results are clearly showing the great interest in going on with electronic tagging activities in the future Phases of GBYP, in order to provide inputs for a more realistic management of the bluefin tuna stocks and populations.

So far the ICCAT GBYP implanted a total of 24,236 tags of various types on 16,630 bluefin tunas of various sizes, mostly juveniles. The tagging activity was conducted both in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Mediterranean Sea.

## ***6.2 Tag awareness and tag reporting campaign***

According to the recommendations provided by the Steering Committee in all meetings, the GBYP continued the tag awareness campaign, for the purpose of improving the tag recovery and reporting rates. Thousands of awareness materials in 12 languages (posters and stickers) were produced and distributed in Phase 4. Details can be found on <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/AwCamp.asp>. The tagging awareness campaign is coupled by a tag rewarding campaign strongly recommended by the Steering Committee, including high rewards, special T-shirts and increased annual lottery prizes. It is also considered very important to provide immediate feedback to the tagging teams and the tag recovery person, informing both of them about the history of each tag and this work is continuously carried out by GBYP. A field tag awareness programme was developed in 2014, after a Call for tenders and several countries have been visited, contacting local authorities directly, fishermen organizations, tuna factories, tuna traps, observers and sport fishermen. Specific training was provided to ICCAT ROPs, requesting them to pay the maximum attention to tags (including natural marks) when observing harvesting in cages or any fishing activity at sea.

For improving information and awareness about the tagging programme, ICCAT-GBYP is developing contacts with various stake-holders organizations and with journalists. Information on GBYP is now present on various web pages, while some articles on the press have been promoted and several articles were published in local newspapers.

A total of 216 tags (188 conventional tags, 17 mini-PATs, 7 archival tags and 4 commercial tag) from bluefin tunas have been reported to ICCAT-GBYP up to the date, showing a very substantial improvement of the total number of reported tags (see detail on documents SCRS/2014/048 and SCRS/2014/051).

## 7. Biological and genetic sampling and analyses

An SCRS meeting was organized in May 2013 in Tenerife for reviewing the bluefin tuna biological parameters and the report is available in [http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2013-BFT\\_BIO\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2013-BFT_BIO_ENG.pdf). The results are also on documents SCRS/2013/074, SCRS/2013/080, SCRS/2013/089, SCRS/2013/94, all presented at the Tenerife meeting. The last data are in SCRS/2014/051.

In total, 8,482 bluefin tunas have been sampled between Phase 2 and 4, providing 4,165 otoliths, 3,480 spines, 626 gonads, 6,107 muscles/fins, for a total of 14,378 biological samples. 40% of the samples were already analysed so far. A large Consortium of 13 entities and 7 sub-contracted entities, belonging to 13 countries carried out the duties in Phase 4.

The first results, that can be still considered preliminary, are extremely interesting and very promising:

- Genetic analyses shows that there are possibly several sub-population components of the eastern bluefin tuna stock, including at least two components in the Mediterranean Sea, but results need to be confirmed by a larger number of samples, further extending the sampling to areas which have not been sampled;
- Microchemistry analyses showed that current stock components are well identified; mixing in the Mediterranean Sea is minimal, but the presence of important percentages of bluefin tuna from different areas in central-North Atlantic and in Atlantic Ibero-Moroccan area needs to be much more investigated and checked before having more solid results; it is possible that intra-Mediterranean components can be further discriminated.
- Otolith shape is providing the first, very preliminary results and even here it seems that bluefin tuna population components are showing some differences, but many other analyses are needed to better study the differences.
- A first ageing calibration was carried out in 2014, with a large participation of scientific institutions and scientists belonging to several CPCs; the first results are showing good improvements and similar exercises, which are essential for more correctly ageing bluefin tuna, must be continued for smoothing the biases.

## 8. Modelling approaches

A Call for tenders was issued in Phase 4, including three activities: a) quantitative risk assessment, b) a study on statistically based stock assessment methods and, c) development of biological hypotheses for the use within MSE. Two contracts were awarded and the results are already available in <http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/modelling.htm>

In Phase 4, two meetings were held on modeling: a first one in May 2013 in Tenerife (EU-ESP) for preparing a first discussion draft document (see:

[http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/MODELLING/PHASE%204/tenerife\\_Modelling.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/MODELLING/PHASE%204/tenerife_Modelling.pdf),

and

[http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/MODELLING/PHASE%204/Tenerife\\_gbyp-modelling\\_draft\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/Documents/MODELLING/PHASE%204/Tenerife_gbyp-modelling_draft_proposal.pdf)) and a second was held in July in Gloucester (USA), where a detailed planning of

bluefin tuna modeling activities have been agreed for the submission to SCRS ([http://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2013\\_BFT\\_METHODS\\_REP\\_ENG.pdf](http://iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2013_BFT_METHODS_REP_ENG.pdf)).

A modeling coordinator and a modeling technical assistant have been contracted in Phase 4, after two Call for tenders, according to the decision taken by the Bluefin Tuna Species Group, the GBYP Steering Committee and the SCRS. A GBYP Modelling Steering Group was also formed. The work necessary for developing new modeling approaches will take several years.

## 9. Research Mortality Allowance

ICCAT adopted the Rec. 11-06 in its meeting in Istanbul on November 2011, which allows for a “research mortality allowance” of 20 t of bluefin tuna by year for GBYP and for the use of any fishing gear in any month of the year in the ICCAT Convention area for GBYP research purposes. For implementing the recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat is releasing a circular in each year of GBYP activity.

A total of 63 ICCAT-GBYP RMA certificates have been issued so far, using a total of 5,155.48 kg of bluefin tuna over two years. The details are reported in SCRS/2014/142.

## 10. Cooperation with ROP

The GBYP coordination, together with the ICCAT Secretariat, is maintaining and improving the contacts with the ROP observers, for strengthening the cooperation and providing opportunities. The ROPs observers are engaged for directly checking bluefin tuna at the harvesting for improving the tag recovery and reporting and for noticing any natural mark. Specific forms were provided to ROPs and the GBYP Coordinator provided specific training to the ROPs.

## 11. GBYP web page

The ICCAT-GBYP web page (<http://www.iccat.int/GBYP/en/>), which (was created in the last part of Phase 1, is usually regularly updated with all documents produced by GBYP; in some cases, due to the huge workload, some sets of documents are posted all together. The updating also includes the budget page, where all contributions (monetary or in kind) are regularly listed, to ensure full transparency. The ICCAT-GBYP web page was recently fully revised and improved.

## 12. Following activities

The GBYP Steering Committee, the mid-term review and the various GBYP meetings provided a list of recommendations on various issues; several of them are essential for fulfilling the duties. Further recommendations will be provided this year by SCRS and then will be forward to the Commission.

In addition, GBYP considers essential better defining the following points:

- a) *Evolution of the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna*: according to the current situation, which demonstrated the impossibility to reach the funding level approved by the ICCAT Commission for the various years of the GBYP and, as a consequence, the impossibility to carry out the various activities as originally planned, considering the need of having a sufficient number of years for obtaining the necessary results, a programme revision is now necessary, finding the right balance among funding possibilities, research needs and duration. The GBYP funding system shall be better defined, stabilised and improved, in order to ensure the regular development of the activities.
- b) *Data recovery and data mining*: Task II data will be finally included in the ICCAT BFT data base; several data conflicts were resolved, but some others must be revised as soon as possible by the concerned CPCs and national scientists. Market and auction data shall be fully validated according to the recommendation provided by the SCRS Data Preparatory Meeting in 2014 and made available to scientists as soon as possible. Now it seems finally possible to recover genetic data from ancient samples coming from the Marmara Sea, possibly representing the ancient bluefin tuna population which was usually migrating from/to the Black Sea and the analyses of these samples is recommended for finally solving the uncertainties about this sub-population. If reliable additional data on longline bluefin tuna fisheries in the Mediterranean for the last decade are detected and not already included in the official Task II data, then these data should be recovered and used for improving our understanding of this fishery.
- c) *Aerial survey*: it is considered essential continuing the survey on spawning aggregations in selected areas, for providing a trend to be used in advanced models; a minimum of 6/7 years of survey is needed; data should be tested for standardisation; the prediction model using the SST data should be further developed and improved.
- d) *Tagging*: electronic tagging should be strongly improved, while conventional tagging should be carried out taking advantage of the experiences in the first part of Phase 4. In particular, electronic tagging should be carried out in the eastern Mediterranean. The tag awareness activity shall be firmly continued, improving media communication.
- e) *Biological and genetic sampling and analyses*: sampling should be continued, covering the less sampled areas; the analyses of the available samples should be improved; age analyses should be cross checked for validation. The recovery of old ICCAT BYP samples should be defined.

- f) *Modelling*: new additional efforts should be devoted for finding the best approaches for using fishery independent data and innovative approaches for better quantify uncertainties. The proposed plan should be adopted and enforced as soon as possible.

For GBYP Phase 5, the Steering Committee recommended the following activities:

1. *Data recovery*: the data analysis shall continue; an important recovery of ancient bluefin tuna bones and the following genetic analyses will be carried out in the eastern Mediterranean.
2. *Biological and genetic sampling and analyses*: it will be necessary to improve the analyses of the samples already collected and stored, developing sampling in the areas where it was not possible to sample so far or where sampling was not sufficient. The ageing calibration will continue and further improved. The GBYP will co-fund a workshop on bluefin tuna larvae.
3. *Conventional tagging*: it is necessary to ensure a continuation of the activities, following the same strategy adopted in Phase 4 and extending the tagging activities (both electronic and conventional) in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. The baitboats in the Bay of Biscay will be used also for assessing the recapture rates.
4. *Electronic tagging*: will be continued, using both miniPATs and internal archival tags, with a priority for the Moroccan traps and the eastern Mediterranean. *Tag awareness and recovery*: must be further strengthened, through the effective support and assistance of national scientists, more focused activities and by contracting various persons to specifically increase awareness in all areas.
5. *Aerial survey on spawning aggregations*: shall be continued, revising the “outside” areas and slightly extending the “inside areas”, possibly including some important southern Mediterranean areas which were not surveyed in Phase 4. A calibration exercise will be necessary, along with another training course.
6. *Modelling approaches*: An external high-level expert shall continue as coordinator of the modelling group; an external expert shall continue for initial model development and coding; two meetings will be necessary in Phase 5.

The total necessary budget for Phase 5 is set at 2,825,000 Euro.

The GBYP will continue encouraging and supporting additional research activities carried out by various CPCs.

**Addendum 1 to Appendix 5****TIME TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF GBYP**

## ICCAT GBYP Steering Committee

The ICCAT GBYP is now in its fifth year of activity. While the GBYP has yielded several significant achievements and demonstrated the value and need for a large scale, international and coordinated research program, there is still a large amount of work that is required to achieve its primary objectives which were identified by the Commission, the SCRS and, more recently, by the Mid-Term Review. This is in part due to a combination of factors that include the shortage in the resources made available to the program, the complexity of the issues being addressed, the needed for extended and/or on-going time series of data for many of the objectives to be realized (e.g. index of abundance from aerial surveys, which need at least 7/8 years before providing a trend) and political/external factors which constrained some of the activities. It is time to plan for the long term future of the GBYP both to capitalize on the work already done and to ensure continuity in the data and activities requiring a long term time series of data. The stock assessment and provision of management advice for the Atlantic Bluefin is challenging and difficult because of the long-lived nature of the species, not well elucidated stock and sub-stock structure and dynamics, poor understanding of its life history (e.g. reproductive biology and natural mortality) and a complex mixture of fisheries targeting different components of the stocks. Some of these difficulties require targeted medium-term research program (e.g. improved understanding of reproductive biology, spatial stock dynamics) while others require an ongoing commitment to the collection of relevant data for input into the stock assessment (e.g. length-age keys, fishery independent indices of abundance). The Steering Committee believes that the future GBYP needs to be conceived and designed to accommodate both the on-going and medium-term component of the stock assessment research undertaken by ICCAT. The document SCRS/2014/194 includes all detailed research proposals made by the Steering Committee for biological studies, reproductive biology, fishery-independent indices of abundance, stock structure and spatial dynamics, analyses and modelling and for the long-term multi-year funding and management of this important and complex programme. According to these needs, the Steering Committee is proposing an extended programme, according to the attached table (**Appendix 1 to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5**) and recommends the adoption of a scientific quota, as it was proposed in 2013 by the SCRS Chair (**Appendix 2 to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5**). It should be emphasized that the planning and implementation of the current GBYP have been consistently hampered by uncertainties regarding funding levels and the timeframe for availability of funds and within which they needed to be spent. There is an urgent need to improve the funding situation of the GBYP in terms of the level of funding, the timeframe in which funds are made available and a firm commitment to a multi-year timeframe. To this end the GBYP Steering Committee recommends the adoption of a scientific quota, as it was proposed in 2013 by the SCRS Chair (**Attachment 2 to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5**). The Steering Committee also considers that there is a need to clarify the roles, responsibility and decision making process for the program and some changes/ improvements to the operational and staffing arrangements for the program. These are detailed in document SCRS/2014/194 and the Steering Committee recommends that these be undertaken.

**Document Attachment 1 to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5**

**Table 1.** Revised timetable 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 can be done periodically.

<b>ICCAT GBYP Revised Research Programme</b>												
<i>Activity</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Coordination												
Data mining & 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.

**Document Attachment 2 to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5**

**Updated Recommendation for GBYP Scientific Quota  
(previously presented to the 2013 Commission Meeting)**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A SCIENTIFIC QUOTA FOR THE  
FUNDING OF THE ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP)**

*Document presented by the SCRS Chair*

*RECALLING* the Commission decision in 2008 to adopt the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for the Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), endorsing the proposal made by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

*RECALLING* the Commission decision in 2009 to initiate the GBYP, endorsing the reviewed and updated SCRS proposal.

*RECALLING* also the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Scientific Research on Stock Origin and Mixing* (Res. 08-06).

*RECOGNIZING* that the research results obtained by GBYP in the initial three phases of the programme, in particular fishery independent data by aerial surveys and/or tagging activities need to be continued for a medium/long period.

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* that the Recommendation 11-06 provides the framework to facilitate the practical execution of diverse research activities, including the allowance of some Bluefin tuna mortality with research purposes.

*CONSIDERING* that the GBYP Research Program is a multiyear program, and that it is essential to conduct research over several consecutive years so as to get the expected results.

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that the current funding mechanism of the GBYP Research Program does not guarantee multiyear funding at the level required by the programmed research plan.

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS, in 2012, has investigated alternative funding mechanisms of similar Research Programs, and requests the Commission to adopt a Scientific Quota eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, to cover the GBYP research activities in 2013 and in following years.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the importance of conducting the GBYP research as it was requested by the Commission under a clear economic framework.

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the provisions of paragraph 27 of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] and considering that the GBYP is not defined as a qualifying participant under the terms of the Criteria;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. In order to secure multiyear funding for the GBYP Research activities, a multiannual constant Scientific Quota be set at 300 t per year, for the period 2015-2021. This scientific quota, set over and outside the total quota shared by CPCs, will not affect the quota sharing even in the future.
2. This quota be sold according to the "Management of the Scientific Quota" (paragraph 3), and the funds generated be used to fund the ICCAT GBYP Research activities.
3. The Secretariat shall elaborate the terms of reference for the call for bids. The terms of reference shall clearly state the requirements for the bidder and circulated to all CPCs.

4. Management of the scientific quota:

- 4.1 Each year, before 15<sup>th</sup> January, the ICCAT Secretariat shall announce the public auction of the Scientific Quota, and the deadlines for receiving bids. The interested public and private entities belonging to CPCs that are members of ICCAT Panel 2 shall bid for a fraction or for the entire Scientific Quota. The minimum quantity for submitting partial bids is set at 50 tons.
- 4.2 The day after the deadline, the ICCAT Secretariat shall communicate to all concerned CPCs the detailed of the interested entities together with the corresponding bids.
- 4.3 Immediately after the consultation with the concerned CPCs, the ICCAT Secretariat shall communicate to all CPCs the details of the selected bids (bidders and amount bided).
- 4.4 Each entity awarded for any BFT Scientific quota level shall follow the normal fishing, monitoring and compliance procedures established by ICCAT, and particularly those established within the Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea (ICCAT Rec. 06-07, 07-04, 09-06, 10-04, 12-03, 13-08 and any future amendment) and any other applicable ICCAT and/or domestic rules.
- 4.5 The selected entities shall make the corresponding payment to ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the adjudication.
- 4.6 These funds shall become automatically available for the activities of the GBYP Research Program.
- 4.7 The funds available through the Scientific Quota shall provide a basic funding level to GBYP, without preventing any additional voluntary contribution by the CPCs or public or private entities, for ensuring the necessary level of funding for carrying on the GBYP activities decided by the Commission.