

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 5 February 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 00750 / 2026

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – AGE VALIDATION OF SHORTFIN MAKO IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC WITHIN THE SHARK RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMME (SRDCP)

I would like to transmit a Call for tenders for the *Age validation of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic*, which will be carried out within the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP), in line with the SCRS workplan for this year.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this Call for Tenders to qualified people and institutions that may be interested.

ICCAT is kindly requesting a quotation for such work, which shall be developed according to the Terms of reference herein attached. The detailed offer shall be submitted **only to the attention of** the ICCAT Executive Secretary, [Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#), and Cc'ing [Ms. Stasa Tensek](#), by **20 February 2026**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Terms of Reference – Age validation of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic.



Terms of reference

Age validation of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic within the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)

1. Background

In 2013 the ICCAT Shark Species Group developed the general guidelines of the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP), aimed at the development and coordination of science and science-related activities needed to support provision of sound scientific advice for the conservation and management of sharks in the Atlantic. The SDCRP was framed within the 2015-2020 SCRS Strategic Plan. In 2024, the Shark Species Group established the priorities for the activities to be developed within SRDCP during 2025 which were approved by the SCRS and the Commission during the 2024 Annual Meeting.

While there are many knowledge gaps as regards shark biology, particular attention is required for the age and growth studies, due to the importance of these parameters in stock assessment. Therefore, over the past few years particular attention has been given by the SRDCP to the age and growth of shortfin mako shark (SMA - *Isurus oxyrinchus*), in both North and South Atlantic.

In its 2025 plenary meeting, the SCRS recognized the need to further advance with the age validation of shortfin mako shark. A study on age validation was planned to be started in 2026, which should be carried out during 2026/2027.

2. Objective

To start an age-validation study for shortfin mako, preferably with bomb radiocarbon, using existing samples, with particular focus on validating the growth band deposition periodicity throughout the lifespan and early growth of shortfin mako shark. The work at this stage should be focused on the North Atlantic.

3. Tasks to be developed

The following activities should be developed:

- 1) **Contact laboratories** (university and national institutes) which have offered vertebrae samples and request that they are provided/shared for the age validation work. Organize the sample exchange and transport to the processing laboratories.
- 2) **Sample processing and laboratory work** related to age validation of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic, preferably using bomb radiocarbon methodology.
- 3) **Data analysis** and interpretation of the results.
- 4) **Attend the 2026 September Shark Species Group Meeting**, where an **SCRS Document** should be provided and presented related to the work carried out.

4. Deliverables

- 1) **Deliverable #1: An SCRS Document** summarizing the work that has been carried out to date. The SCRS Document shall be provided by **7 September 2026** at the latest, and be presented at the **Sharks Species Group September meeting**.

- 2) **Deliverable #2: A Draft Final Report** (SCRS paper format) shall be provided by **15 December 2026** at the latest, with the following minimum elements:

- a. Executive summary;
- b. Full description of the work carried out;
- c. Description and interpretation of preliminary results;
- d. Any difficulties related to the current work;
- e. Proposals of further activities to be developed for achieving the objectives of the project.

The Sharks Species Group Rapporteur and the SCRS Vice Chair, in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat, will review, provide comments, and communicate any necessary revisions to Deliverable #2 (if applicable) to the Contractor and/or inform of approval within 5 days of the submission(s).

- 3) **Deliverable #3: A Final Report** (SCRS paper format) shall be provided by **31 December 2026** at the latest, taking into account any comments and requests for revisions made on the Draft Final Report (if changes are requested), along with a full administrative report including a complete set of documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract.

5. Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience on age validation work, preferably with experience in large migratory species and elasmobranchs.
- Availability of sufficient qualified scientific and technical staff to carry out the activities.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is highly desirable.

6. Submission of proposals

The proposals should be developed according to these Terms of reference. The detailed offer shall be submitted by e-mail **only** to the attention of Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel (camille.manel@iccat.int), the ICCAT Executive Secretary (miguel.santos@iccat.int), and Ms. Stasa Tensek (stasa.tensek@iccat.int), by **20 February 2026**, including:

- a) Acknowledgment of this Call for tenders.
- b) A detailed offer, based on the Terms of reference of this Call for tenders, describing the methodologies to be used.
- c) If additional time beyond the TORs deadline is required, the proposal should include a timeline for completion of this study.
- d) The curriculum vitae of the principal scientist(s).
- e) The curricula vitae of the institution(s) or entity(ies) involved.
- f) An estimated budget for the activities to be carried out, including information on time to be assigned to the different work to be done, overheads (if applicable), as well as any in-kind contributions (if applicable).
- g) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body and the focal point for the work and reporting components.
- h) The bank account of the tendering body, (bank name, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes), and the VAT identification code.
- i) A declaration that the offering institution will follow these Terms of reference, and/or approved modifications agreed upon, and the administrative rules specified in the contract.
- j) A declaration that all the comments eventually made on the deliverables will be taken into consideration.

In the case of a consortium or group of entities, an administrative and a scientific responsible entity should be identified.

The ICCAT Secretariat will revise the offer in consultation with the SCRS Chair and the Shark Species Group Rapporteur. The ICCAT Secretariat will notify the result of the selection process as soon as possible.

Offers that fail to furnish the required documentation or information, or that reject the terms and conditions of the Call for tenders will not be considered.

Contractors can be either research institutions, such as government or private laboratories, universities, private firms, individual scientists or other entities having the qualifications required.

The Contractor should be available to report to any meeting requested by ICCAT.

7. Duration of the contract

The work under this contract will be concluded by **31 December 2026** at the latest.

8. 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** and after receiving a regular invoice which may be submitted at the latest 30 days after the signature of the contract.
2. **30%** of the total amount of the contract upon the provision of the **SCRS document (Deliverable #1)** and after receiving a regular invoice.
3. **10%** of the total amount of the contract upon the provision of the **Draft Final Report (Deliverable #2)** and after receiving a regular invoice.
4. **10%** of the total amount of the contract, after **approval of the Final Report (Deliverable #3)** and a complete set of documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract, and after receiving a regular invoice.

9. Selection of proposals

The ICCAT Secretariat will review the offer(s). Following the review process, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the entity selected for the contract as soon as the selection process is completed. The contract will be awarded on the basis of competitive tendering and the evaluation of proposals will be undertaken objectively, consistently and without bias towards particular suppliers.

Proposal(s) will be evaluated against a pre-determined set of criteria, which include: i) cost (30%); ii) proven track record (20%); iii) technical merit based on work plan (40%); and iv) flexibility as regards future changes in requirements (10%).

10. 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. Tagging data will be included in the ICCAT tagging database. All documents submitted must be in English.



11. Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of the ICCAT, will be kept confidential, and cannot, in any case, be circulated by the Contractor. The scientific use of the data by the Contractor will always be notified to ICCAT in advance for clearance.

For further information concerning this Call for tenders, please contact the ICCAT Secretariat at the following address: miguel.santos@iccat.int.