



Madrid, 13 de marzo de 2025

## CIRCULAR ICCAT # 02093/ 2025

**ASUNTO: CONVOCATORIA DE OFERTAS - PROGRAMA ANUAL DE PEQUEÑOS TÚNIDOS (SMTYP)-  
CONTINUACIÓN DE LA RECOPIACIÓN Y ANÁLISIS DE MUESTRAS BIOLÓGICAS PARA  
ESTUDIOS DE CRECIMIENTO, MADUREZ Y GENÉTICA**

Me complace transmitirle adjuntos los términos de referencia destinados a la continuación de la recopilación y análisis de muestras biológicas para estudios de crecimiento, madurez y genética.

Le agradecería distribuyera esta convocatoria de ofertas entre las instituciones y personas cualificadas que pudieran estar interesadas.

Por tanto, ICCAT solicita nuevos presupuestos para dicho trabajo, que se desarrollará de conformidad con los términos de referencia adjuntos a esta carta. La oferta detallada se enviará **únicamente a la atención del secretario ejecutivo** de ICCAT, el [Sr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#), con copia a la [Sra. Stasa Tensek](#), antes del **26 de marzo de 2025**.

Si desea más información sobre esta solicitud de presupuesto, póngase en contacto con el [Dr. Miguel Neves do Santos](#) en la Secretaría de ICCAT.

Le saluda atentamente,

*Secretario ejecutivo*

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

**DISTRIBUCIÓN:**

– **Cargos de la Comisión:**

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<b>Segundo vicepresidente:</b>	R. Chong	<b>Presidenta del STACFAD:</b>	D. Warner-Kramer
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<b>Presidente del SCRS:</b>	C. Brown	<b>Vicepresidente del SCRS:</b>	L.G. Cardoso

– **Jefes de delegación/jefes científicos**

– **Partes, Entidades o Entidades pesqueras no contratantes colaboradoras**

**Documentación adjunta:** Términos de referencia de la convocatoria de ofertas (sólo en inglés)



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## Terms of Reference

### Small Tuna Year Program (SMTYP) - Continuation of the collection and analysis of biological samples for growth, maturity and genetics studies

#### 1. Background and objectives

The ICCAT Small Tunas Year Program (SMTYP) was adopted by the Commission at its 18th Special meeting of the Commission in 2012 (Agadir, Morocco). The main objectives of this project are to improve historical Task 1 and 2 data and to collect biological data for small tunas (SMT), especially the growth, the maturity and stock structure data which are necessary for their assessment in the near future and thus provide scientific advice to ICCAT for their management.

The 2017 Small Tuna Species Group Intersessional Meeting decided to prioritize three species: Little tunny (LTA) (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), Atlantic Bonito (BON) (*Sarda sarda*) and Wahoo (WAH) (*Acanthocybium solandri*), based on their economic importance and the lack of knowledge on their biology. As approved by the SCRS in 2017, the SMTYP collected biological samples aiming at describing the growth, maturity and stock structure on these three small tunas species along the period from 2018 to 2024.

In 2019, results on stock structure of two of the three species (BON and LTA) were provided and samples for growth and maturity were considered mostly satisfactory for the areas and species. In the period from 2021 to 2024, the main gaps of sampling for BON, LTA, and WAH were partially covered, and the results related to the growth and maturity parameters were preliminary provided for all areas. However, given some problems with the sampling progress, there are still analysis and size gaps for the three species and hence the parameters were not fully estimated.

Hence, the Group decided, during the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in 2024, to continue filling the size gaps to conclude the analyses of growth and reproduction for LTA, BON and WAH and, given the socio-economic importance, to keep the prioritization of the other new species for the new cycle of the program: the frigate (FRI) (*Auxis thazard*) and the bullet tuna (BLT) (*Auxis rochei*), specifically concerning the stock structure, with opportunistic data collection of gonads and hard parts for future analysis.

Hence, the new phase of the project should focus on a) Continuing sampling aiming to fill the specific gaps of the biological samples for enhancing the estimations of the growth and maturity parameters for BON, LTA and WAH; b) collecting additional samples for FRI and BLT in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea for stock structure studies; c) enhancing the estimation of the growth and reproduction parameters for BON, LTA, and WAH; d) refining the stock structure analysis for FRI and BLT; and e) investigating the genetic differentiation between FRI and BLT.

As part of this biological study, scientific institutes and public or private entities are asked to submit a proposal to reach the project objectives. The organization of scientific institutes in a Consortium to submit one single offer project would be preferable. All the data collected under the SMT research program shall be used only for scientific purposes and in accordance with ICCAT rules. Any other use of these data should be specifically authorized by ICCAT. Given the limited budget available in 2025, priority will be given to fill specific gaps necessary to obtain the growth and maturity parameters for BON, LTA, WAH, FRI and BLT from geographical areas that the Small Tunas Species Group identified as of high priority, considering data collected in the last 7 years (see **Figure 1**). Conducting a morphometric and morphological comparison between fresh/frozen specimens of LTA from the Northeast Temperate Atlantic, the Southwest Atlantic, and the eastern tropical Atlantic, and Mediterranean Sea to assess if physical characters can be used to discriminate the two genetically differentiated stocks. We also aim to continue sampling FRI and BLT designated as new priorities, focusing mainly on the stock structure studies. Other CPCs, apart from those listed in the following table, are encouraged to be part of the Consortium.



## 2. Contractor tasks

The Contractor will work in close consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat. The Contractor will provide a detailed description of the biological sampling scheme explaining how the biological activities should be conducted. The Contractor shall provide final results of the growth, maturity and the stock structure for WAH, BON, and LTA; and stock structure results for WAH, BON, LTA (refined analysis), BLT and FRI. It must be noted that for biological sampling and analysis, regional sampling is needed and short-term sampling is considered of little use for meeting the project objectives. As such, tenders should be made on a **regional and collaborative basis** aiming at the targets set in **Annex 1**. **Annex 2** includes details on the criteria for sample costs, whereas **Annex 3** relates to the publication policy concerning the results obtained.

The working proposal should be responsible for the following:

- a) The Contractor must provide the Secretariat with a detailed description of the biological sampling scheme (biological sampling by regions, type of biological samples to be collected and analysed (gonads, otoliths, spines, tissue), number of fish to be sampled by month if possible, taking into consideration targets set in the **Annex 1**. The biological sampling period should be as long as possible, noting the contract duration. The proposal should include a chronogram of activities to be carried out until **31 December 2025** and respective budget.
- b) A detailed description of the methodology to be used, the expected results for this analysis, and the full cost of the analysis should be provided as well.
- c) The Contractor must follow strictly the protocols contained in the ICCAT Manual for the collection of samples ([click here](#)) and the suggestion during the Workshop held on February 2020 for analysis of the growth and maturity data.
- d) The Contractor shall provide an interim report summarizing the sampling results, preliminary results for growth and maturity for LTA, BON and WAH and stock structure results for all species.

## 3. Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience in small tuna's research and/or research on large pelagic species with experience on fishery data collection;
- University degree in one of the following: fisheries science, marine biology, statistics, natural sciences, biological sciences, environmental sciences or closely related fields (in case of individual scientists);
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French or Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is desirable.

## 4. Deliverables

1. A first deliverable should be prepared as a **SCRS document/presentation** with the preliminary results to be provided to the Secretariat by **19 May 2025** and presented at the Small Tunas Species Group (SMT SG) Intersessional Meeting (**26-28 May 2025**). This document/presentation shall update the SMT SG on the collection of samples, preliminary results for growth and maturity for LTA, BON and WAH, and stock structure results for all species.

2. A second deliverable should be provided by **15 September 2025** to the Secretariat and be



presented during the September SMT SG meeting. This should be an update of Deliverable #1 and shall be prepared as a **SCRS document**.

3. A third deliverable (**draft final report**) should be provided as a SCRS document by **15 December 2025** to the Secretariat and describe the activities carried out during the contract period, including the following:
  - a) Executive Summary;
  - b) Full description of the work carried out;
  - c) Detailed description of the sampling carried out for each of the three areas of research: Growth, Reproduction for WAH, LTA and BON and Stock Structure for all species;
  - d) Detailed description of growth and maturity (LTA, BON and WAH) and genetics results for all species;
  - e) References and literature cited.
4. The SMT SG Rapporteur, the SCRS Chair, in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat, may provide comments and request any necessary revisions of the draft final report, which if applicable the Contractor shall include in the revised version, which will be considered the **final report** of the contract. The latter shall be provided together with the **EXCEL file containing all the data related to the samples**, as well as any related data regarding the processing and analysis of the samples, by **31 December 2025** at the latest.

## 5. Payment details

Disbursement will be made according to the following schedule:

- 1) 40% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract within 30 days after signature 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) 20% of the total amount of the contract upon reception of the 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable and after receiving a regular invoice;
- 3) 20% of the total amount of the contract upon reception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> deliverable and after receiving a regular invoice;
- 4) 20% of the total amount of the contract upon receipt and acceptance by the Secretariat of the final report of the contract, and after receiving a regular invoice and a complete set of documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract, no later than **31 December 2025**.

## 6. Submission of proposals

The proposals should be developed according to the Terms of Reference herein attached. The detailed offer shall submit detailed offer(s) **only to the attention of Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel**, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, and Cc'ing **Ms Stasa Tensek**, by **26 March 2025 (18:00, Madrid time)**, including:

- a) A detailed offer shall include: i) the detailed description of the activities to be carried out; and ii) detailed (breakdown) budget, including unitary costs for the collected samples (i.e., gonads and first dorsal fin ray) and the unitary cost of analysis;
- b) The *curriculum vitae* of the tenderer (in case of individual scientists) and of any collaborator (sub-contractor);
- c) The *curriculum vitae* of the institution (if an institution is the service provider), with any documented



experience in reproductive studies;

- d) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering person/entity;
- e) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering person/body (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc. (if applicable));
- f) A list of any relevant subcontracting activities;
- g) The declaration that the offering person/entity shall follow the ICCAT procedures and formats for data to be provided;
- h) A declaration that all the comments eventually made will be incorporated prior to submission to the ICCAT Secretariat of the final report (if applicable);
- i) Acknowledgment of this Call for tenders (if applicable);
- j) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions and provisions included in the attached ToR.

For further information concerning this quotation request, please contact the ICCAT Secretariat at the following address: [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int).

## 7. Selection of proposals

The ICCAT Secretariat will review the offer(s). Following the revision 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; ii) proven track record; iii) technical merit based on work plan; and iv) flexibility as regards future changes in requirements.

## 8. Logistics

All documents provided by the Contractor must be in open format ODF 1.2 ([click here](#)) such as MS word or "\*.odf" de Apache OpenOffice y LibreOffice, tables must be in Excel format or compatible, figures and pictures must be in JPEG or TIFF format or compatible. All documents submitted must be in English.

Data must be provided in the standard ICCAT format for statistics. The biological data must be submitted in a format to be defined by the ICCAT Secretariat.

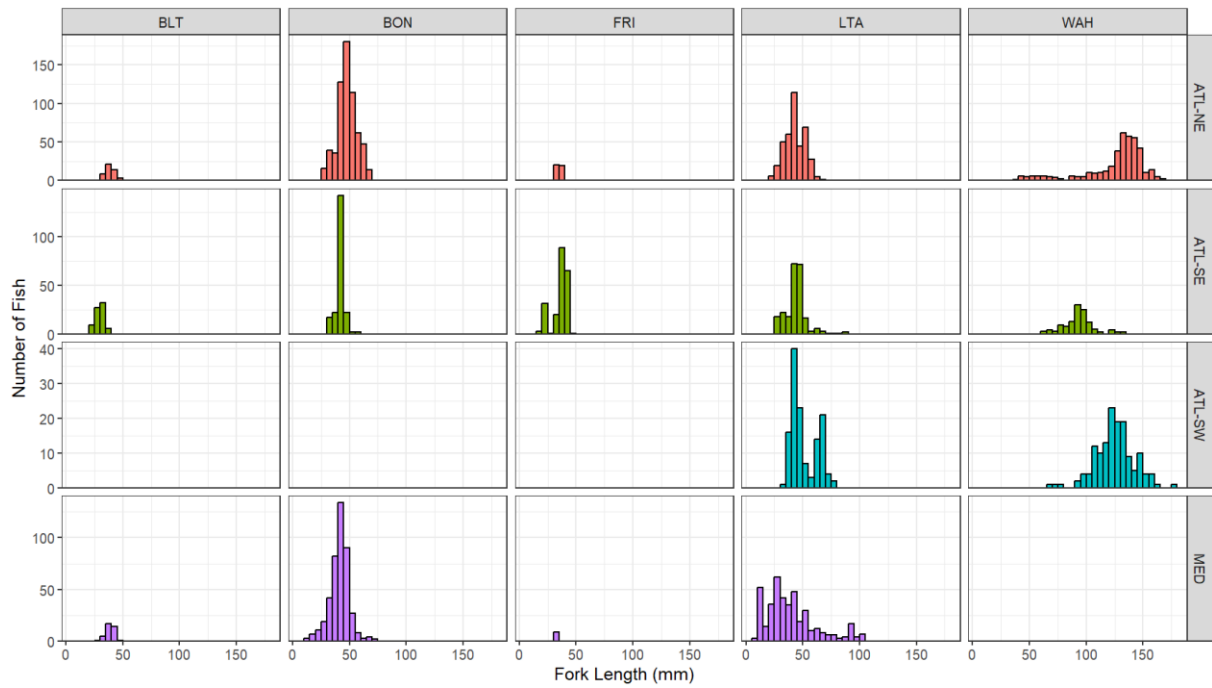
## 9. Copyright

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

For information concerning this quotation request, please contact the ICCAT Secretariat at the following address: [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int).



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO



**Figure 1.** Availability of samples by size classes (fork length) for BON, LTA, WAH, FRI and BLT by regions.



## Annex 1

**Detailed information on sampling targets by size range and regions for  
FRI, BLT, WAH, LTA and BON, aiming age and growth, reproduction and stock structure**

**Table 1.** Gaps on size classes for the age and growth study by species and region.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>CPCs involved</i>	<i>Target size classes (and desirable number of samples in brackets)</i>
<b>Frigate (FRI)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	All (50)
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All (100)
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
<b>Bullet tuna (BLT)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Spain, EU-Portugal, Morocco, Senegal	All (50)
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All (100)
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
	Med	Algeria, EU-Malta, EU-Spain, Tunisia	All (50)
<b>Little Tunny (LTA)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	> 60 cm (15)
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	> 60 cm (20)
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
<b>Atlantic Bonito (BON)</b>	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	> 60 cm (10)
	Med	Algeria, EU- Malta, EU-Spain, Tunisia	≥ 60 cm (15)

**Table 2.** Gaps on size classes for the stock structure study by species and region.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>CPCs involved</i>	<i>Target size classes and desirable number of samples (in brackets)</i>
<b>Frigate (FRI)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	All (100)
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All (100)
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
<b>Bullet tuna (BLT)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU- Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	All (100)
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All (100)
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
	Med	EU-Malta, EU-Spain, Algeria, Tunisia	All (100)
<b>Little tunny (LTA)</b>	NE Atlantic	Mauritania, Morocco	50
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All (100)
<b>Atlantic Bonito (BON)</b>	NE Atlantic	Mauritania, Morocco	50
	Med	Türkiye	50



**Table 3.** Gaps on size classes for the reproduction study by species and region.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>CPCs involved</i>	<i>Target size classes and desirable number of samples by month (25 per month)</i>
<b>Frigate (FRI)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	All month
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All month
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All month
<b>Bullet tuna (BLT)</b>	NE Atlantic	EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco, Senegal	All month
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	All month
	SW Atlantic	Brazil	All month
	Med	Tunisia, EU-Malta, EU-Spain, Algeria	All month
<b>Wahoo (WAH)*</b>	NE Atlantic	Senegal, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco	January, February, April, May, June, July, August, and December
	SE Atlantic	Côte d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	January, February, April, May, June, July, August, and December
<b>Little Tunny (LTA)</b>	NE Atlantic	Senegal, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco	March to July and November to January
	SE Atlantic	Cote d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	January, February, April, June, and July
	Med	Tunisia, EU-Malta, EU-Spain, Algeria	March to July and November to January
<b>Atlantic Bonito (BON)</b>	NE Atlantic	Senegal, EU-Portugal, EU-Spain, Morocco	January to April and November to December (small sizes)
	SE Atlantic	Cote d'Ivoire, EU-Spain, Gabon	January to April and November to December (small and larger sizes)



**Compensation criteria for the provision of samples**

**Compensation criteria for the provision of samples:**

1. The proposed budget in sampling is based that all sub-contractors contributed equally to the sampling detailed in Objective 1 - Sampling. However, since the sampling is designed to have enough samples for each area, the final payment to each sub-contractor will be according to the samples provided.
2. Each sample will be paid according to the following table.

<b>Full sample set*<sup>+,*</sup></b>	<b>Partial sample set**<sup>+,*</sup></b>	<b>Incomplete sample set; value €0</b>	<b>Optional but highly desirable data</b>
Source (consortium member)	Source (consortium member)	Samples lacking a properly processed and stored spine OR tissue sample	Date landed
SampleID	SampleID		Person responsible of the sampling
Date caught	Date landed		
Latitude, longitude caught	Port/location landed		
Port/Location landed	ICCAT area		
ICCAT area	Spine (properly processed and stored)		
Spine and/or otolith (properly processed and stored)	Tissue for stock structure (properly processed and stored)		
Gonad (properly processed and stored)	Length (and length code) or weight (and weight code)		
Tissue for stock structure (properly processed and stored)			
Length* (and length code)			
Weight* (and weight code)			
Gear type			

\* Maximum value to be paid – WAH (€25), BON (€35), LTA (€50), BLT (€20) and FRI (€10).

\*\*Maximum value to be paid – WAH (€25), BON (€25), LTA (€35), BLT (€15) and FRI (€8).

+ For length and weight, code must be clarified (e.g., straight fork length vs total length; total weight vs eviscerated weight).

In the case of large sized specimens, higher unitary costs may be acceptable after validation by the coordinators based on the provision of evidence.



### Annex 3

#### Publication policy concerning the results obtained

The publication policy concerning the results obtained by the various researches carried out within this programme must follow standard rules and those rules are mandatory for all the participants to the SMTYP. The acceptance of a contract provided by the SMTYP will automatically imply the acceptance of the "Publication policy and Editorial rules" here detailed.

1. Ownership of the results of the SMTYP, including industrial and intellectual property rights, and of the reports and other documents relating to it shall be vested by ICCAT.
2. The result of each action carried out within the SMTYP and all the scientific results obtained by these actions shall be presented to the ICCAT-SCRS at the first opportunity.
3. The scientific results of actions carried out within the SMTYP, after the presentation to the ICCAT/SCRS, can be published, entirely or partly, on the ICCAT Collective Volume of Scientific Papers as well as in other scientific journals. The Authors who wish to publish these results in other scientific journals shall previously require a permit to ICCAT. ICCAT, following the spirit of this scientific programme, encourages the Authors engaged in research action within the SMTYP to disseminate their results, particularly in peer-reviewed international scientific journals.
4. Each report or article concerning the results obtained within the actions of the SMTYP must include the following sentence:

*"This work was carried out under the provision of the ICCAT Small Tunas Year Program (SMTYP) and funded by the ICCAT Science Envelope. The contents of this paper do not necessarily reflect the point of view of ICCAT, which has no responsibility over them, and in no ways anticipate the Commission's future policy in this area."*

5. All the data collected under the SMTYP shall be used only for scientific purposes and according to the ICCAT rules. Any other use of these data should be specifically authorised by ICCAT.

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