

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, 29 April 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03691 / 2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – ESTIMATION OF EXPLOITATION RATE FOR ATLANTIC SKIPJACK TUNA

I should like to transmit a Call for Tenders for the Estimation of Exploitation Rate for Atlantic Skipjack Tuna, which will be carried out within the Tropical Tuna Research and Data Collection Program (TTRaD), 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.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
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Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	SCRS Vice Chair	L.G. Cardoso
- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Terms of Reference – Estimation of Exploitation Rate for Atlantic Skipjack Tuna (only provided in English).



TERMS OF REFERENCE

ESTIMATION OF EXPLOITATION RATE FOR ATLANTIC SKIPJACK TUNA

1. Background and Objectives

Stock assessments of skipjack are notoriously difficult. One reason being the lack of reliable abundance or exploitation rate for the purse seine fishery based on Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE). Data collected under the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna tagging Programme (AOTTP) may be used to create a time series of exploitation rates for the Atlantic.

These time series will then be used in the Jabba and Stock Synthesis models from the 2022 stock assessment, adding a component to the objective function that fits the model's estimate of fishing mortality to the time series from tagging.

Results will be analysed to determine if the exploitation rates from tagging improved the performance of the assessment models.

2. Contractor tasks

These Terms of Reference outline the creation of a time series of skipjack tuna exploitation rate and the assessment of whether these exploitation rates can be used to improve assessment model performance.

The Tasks include:

- Collation of skipjack tagging data
- Creation of a time series of exploitation rates
- Incorporation of the time series into the 2022 stock assessment models
- Analysis of the results to assess whether the performance of the assessment models is improved with the use of the tagging derived exploration rates
- Presentation of results to the Tropical Tunas Species Group
- Meet as required with the SCRS Tropical Tunas Species Group and incorporate suggestions and updates as required

3. Deliverables

1. A SCRS document or presentation of the analyses of tagging data and preliminary time series of exploitation rates for the Atlantic skipjack stocks to be submitted by **7 July 2025** and provided at the Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting (*Hybrid, Madrid, Spain 14-18 July in 2025*).
2. A SCRS document summarising results from the incorporation of exploitation rates from tagging into the 2022 skipjack assessment models to be submitted by **15 September 2025** and presented at the SCRS Tropical Tunas Species Group Meeting (*Hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 22-27 September 2025*).
3. Provide a final report summarising results of work completed during the project along with all data and code used before **1 November 2025**.

The Tropical Tuna Species Group and its rapporteurs and the SCRS Chair, in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat, will review all submissions of the contract deliverables and communicate any necessary revisions (if applicable) to the contractor and/or inform of approval within 15 days of the submission(s). The contractor shall submit the revised final documents (if changes are requested) together with the regular invoice, within 30 days after the aforementioned 15 days period.



4. Contractor minimum qualifications

- 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.

5. Submission of proposal(s)

The proposals should be developed according to these Terms of Reference. The detailed offer shall be submitted only to the attention of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, [Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#) and Cc'ing [Ms. Stasa Tensek](#), by **16 May 2025 (18:00, Madrid time)**, including:

- The detailed offer shall include: i) the detailed description of the activities to be carried out; and ii) detailed (breakdown) budget, including unitary costs (if applicable).
- The *curriculum vitae* of the tenderer (in case of individual scientists) and of any collaborator (sub-contractor).
- The *curriculum vitae* of the institution (if an institution is the service provider), with any documented experience in reproductive studies.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering person/entity.
- The institutional and administrative background of the tendering person/body (e.g. statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc. (if applicable).
- A list of any relevant subcontracting activities.
- The declaration that the offering person/entity shall follow the ICCAT procedures and formats for data to be provided.
- A declaration that all the comments eventually made will be incorporated prior to submission to the ICCAT Secretariat of the final report.
- Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders.
- A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions and provisions included in the attached Terms of Reference.

6. Selection of proposal(s)

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a revision of 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. Contracts will be awarded based on competitive tendering. 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 (30%); (iii) technical merit based on workplan including the bidder's qualifications (30%); and, (iv) flexibility to future changes to requirements (10%).

7. Payment details

Disbursement will be made according to the following schedule:

- 30% of the total amount of the contract upon **signing the contract** and after receiving a regular invoice, which may be submitted at the latest 30 days after the signature of the contract;
- 20% of the total amount of the contract upon the provision of **Deliverable #1** and after receiving a regular invoice;



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- 20% of the total amount of the contract, upon the provision of **Deliverable #2** and after receiving a regular invoice.
- 30% of the total amount of the contract, after the approval of the final report (**Deliverable #3**), and after receiving a regular invoice and the complete set of documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract, no later than **1 November 2025**.

8. 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.

9. 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 [here](#).