

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, 23 June 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 06096 / 2025

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – TAGGING DERIVED MORTALITY ESTIMATION OF TROPICAL TUNA

I should like to transmit a Call for Tenders for the Tagging Derived Mortality Estimation of Tropical 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.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

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- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Terms of Reference – Tagging Derived Mortality Estimation of Tropical Tuna (only provided in English).



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Tagging Derived Mortality Estimation of Tropical Tuna

Background and objectives

The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) was a five-year tag and release project implemented by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). Five important species of tropical tuna were targeted for tag and release using mainly baitboats, although longliners and recreational anglers were also used. During the project, approximately 120,000 fish were tagged and released with conventional tags and around 600 with electronic (pop-up and internal/archival) tags.

The original objectives of the AOTTP were to contribute to food security and economic growth of the Atlantic coastal State by supporting the adoption of appropriate conservation and management measures (CMMs). The AOTTP supported the collection of important tag-recapture, and biological data to improve knowledge of various biological and ecological parameters for the main tropical tuna species in the Atlantic Ocean. Detailed information on the number of fish tagged, years of release and recovery and data availability are provided on the [AOTTP website](#) and in **Annex 1**.

This project seeks to utilise conventional tagging data to update estimates of natural and fishing mortality for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). Analyses should attempt to account for differences associated with species, year, age/length and area. Where feasible, Contractors will work with the Secretariat to ensure that auxiliary data (e.g. effort) and previously published results relevant to the AOTTP (e.g. estimates of tag reporting rates, tag shedding rates) are utilised.

Contractor tasks

These Terms of Reference outline the analysis of AOTTP data (and other complementary data) to estimate fishing and natural mortality for tropical tuna.

The tasks include:

- Estimate fishing and natural mortality by species, year, age/length and area (where possible) by integrating the multi-year conventional tagging data with information on tag reporting, tag induced mortality and tag shedding rates;
- If feasible, consider the impact of the tagging platform (e.g. fish aggregating device, free school) for estimating M;
- Present developments to the Tropical Tunas Species Group (TT SG);
- Meet as required with the SCRS TT SG and incorporate suggestions and updates as required.

Deliverables

1. A SCRS document and related presentation describing preliminary data exploration for all three tropical tuna species to be submitted by **15 September 2025** and presented at the Tropical Tunas Species Group meeting scheduled between 22 and 24 September 2025 during the SCRS species groups meeting (22-27 September 2025).
2. Provide a final report summarising all results and work completed during the project along with all data and code used before **15 December 2025**.

The Tropical Tuna Species Group and its coordinator 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 5 days of the submission(s). The contractor shall submit the revised final documents (if changes are requested) together with a regular invoice, within 10 days after the aforementioned 5 days period.

Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented multi-year experience in mark-recapture models.
- 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.

Submission of proposals

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** (camille.manel@iccat.int) and Cc'ing **Ms. Stasa Tensek** (stasa.tensek@iccat.int), by **3 July 2025 (18:00, Madrid time)**, including:

- a) 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).
- 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.
- i) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders.
- j) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions and provisions included in these Terms of Reference.

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 towards future changes in requirements (10%).



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;
- 40% of the total amount of the contract upon the approval of **Deliverable #1** and after receiving a regular invoice;
- 30% of the total amount of the contract, after the approval of the final report (**Deliverable #2**), and after receiving a regular invoice and the complete set of documents concerning the expenses incurred under the contract, no later than **15 December 2025**.

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.

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.



Annex 1

Table 1. Number of fish released, recovered and percentage of recoveries by species.

Species	No. Released	No. Recovered	% Recovery
Bigeye tuna (BET)	24273	5173	21
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	41232	8984	22
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	46979	3637	8