

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, 30 April 2025

## ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # G-00303/2025

### SUBJECT: ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (GBYP) - ELECTRONIC TAGGING IN PHASE 14 - YEAR 2025

Since GBYP Phase 10, a new strategic approach for the development of the GBYP e-tagging program, based on strengthening the collaboration with CPCs' e-tagging national programs, has been successfully implemented. Consequently, in order to continue taking advantage of the synergies between the tagging programs developed at national level and that of GBYP, the GBYP Steering Committee has proposed to launch a new Call for Expressions of Interest to collaborate with the GBYP e-tagging program.

Considering the recommendations from the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group, the GBYP Steering Committee has decided that the 2025 GBYP archival electronic tagging (a minimum of 32 pop-up satellite tags and 9 internal archival tags) shall be deployed in the main spawning areas of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock (in the Mediterranean Sea), aiming at enhancing the understanding of the species' population structure, spatial distribution and migratory patterns within the Mediterranean Sea, and determining the proportion of fish moving to the Atlantic Ocean.

In parallel, GBYP will continue supporting the deployment of acoustic tags in individuals performing migrations to and from Mediterranean Sea spawning grounds (i.e. at least 15 acoustic tags shall be deployed on fish entering the Mediterranean Sea, and another 15 tags shall be deployed on fish exiting the Mediterranean Sea). The acoustic tagging aims generating independent estimates of eastern bluefin tuna mortality rates taking advantage of the newly established acoustic curtain of receivers set across the Strait of Gibraltar.

GBYP will provide an agreed number of electronic tags to each awarded team, which will deploy them within the framework of their own tagging campaigns carried out in 2025, assuming the deployment costs. In some cases, if required and necessary, GBYP will provide additional support, such as expert taggers to help local teams in e-tagging operations.

Tagging shall be conducted in the following geographical areas:

- Archival tagging - the spawning areas in the Mediterranean Sea (i.e. **Balearic Sea, Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas, and, especially in the eastern Mediterranean/Levantine Sea**);
- Acoustic tagging - **Gulf of Cadiz/southern coast of Portugal**.

The main criteria to evaluate the proposals are:

- experience in this field of the team presenting the proposal;
- scientific and technical quality of the proposal;
- interest for ICCAT of the proposed survey.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could disseminate this information to the research institutions you consider could be interested in your CPC. Research teams willing to collaborate with ICCAT GBYP e-tagging campaigns should submit a proposal to [gbyp@iccat.int](mailto:gbyp@iccat.int), **by 18 May 2025 at the latest**, summarizing their experience in electronic tagging and the workplans for the next national e-tagging surveys. This proposal should include a description of methodologies, location and timing of tagging operations, targeted bluefin tuna sizes, and number and type of tags expected to be deployed, as well as the number and type of GBYP electronic tags (PSAT, archival internal or acoustics) that could be deployed within the survey(s). For further information the applicants can contact the ICCAT GBYP Coordinator ([Dr Francisco Alemany](mailto:Dr Francisco Alemany): or [gbyp@iccat.int](mailto:gbyp@iccat.int)).



Expressions of interest will be assessed by an evaluation committee nominated by the ICCAT Executive Secretary to select the most adequate team(s) to fulfil the current SCRS research needs in this field. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between ICCAT and the awarded institutions.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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