



Madrid, 16 March 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1610 / 2022

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ROP-BFT FOR THE 2022 SEASON

I have the honour to inform you that, following the extension of the contract with the consortium selected to implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP_BFT), the cost of observers will be as shown in the attachments (**Attachment 1: Vessels; Attachment 2: Farms/Traps**).

Despite some overall improvements in the pandemic situation, in some cases the exceptional circumstances of 2020 and 2021 may continue into 2022. Given the continued travel restrictions in some areas and the continued existence of the COVID-19 virus, the exact movements of observers at this time cannot be foreseen or guaranteed. As previously, the consortium will make every effort to embark observers, including ensuring as far as possible that these are of different nationalities to the flag State of the vessel, but plans may have to be changed at the last minute in some cases. While we hope that there will be continued improvement between now and May, we need to take these uncertainties into account. Therefore, as in 2020 and 2021, the following procedures may apply in cases of *force majeure*:

- Regional Observers of the same nationality as the flag may be embarked on purse seine vessels in cases where international travel is not possible. Similarly, the consortium will make every effort to place international observers on farms and traps, but same nationality may be deployed if needed;
- If it is impossible for a Regional Observer to be mobilised (albeit of same nationality), CPCs should, where possible, nominate either a national inspector or a national observer to act in locum of the Regional Observer. In such cases all details should be sent to the consortium via the Secretariat in order to assign a temporary ROP number, and the observer should send his/her report and data directly to the consortium. It should be noted that such inspectors/observers will be temporarily considered Regional Observers during this period;
- In the event that neither a regional nor a national inspector/observer can be mobilised, each CPC must determine whether or not they authorise their vessels to fish, and in such cases what measures to take, bearing in mind that the Compliance Committee will, at its meeting in November, examine in detail the actions taken in such circumstances.

Note that there have been some minor modifications to prices as compared with 2021, so all operators are requested to ensure that the correct sums are lodged. While efforts will be made to avoid quarantine for COVID-19, in the event that this becomes inevitable, such costs will be considered a shared cost. **Please read carefully the attachments below and make the full required payments within the deadlines.**

Please note that the consortium will ensure that all observers receive a lateral flow / antigen test, prior to training and deployment and are supplied with an adequate amount of face masks and hand sanitiser as appropriate. We should be grateful if all CPCs could inform the Secretariat regarding the particular travel or movement restrictions or any other special requirements in relation to COVID-19, particularly with regard to testing requirements, pre-embarkation quarantine and vaccination status which may affect implementation of this programme. Understanding that such requirements may be subject to change, your initial responses to this request should be sent to the Secretariat by **15 April 2022** to be taken into account before recruitment is finalised. Similarly, we should appreciate CPCs informing us of their plans in the event an outbreak of the virus is detected on board. Please note a revised Memorandum of Understanding, downloadable from the ICCAT [website](#) has been drawn up by the consortium and should be signed by all operators. Note that if using Google Chrome, it may be necessary to delete history in order to see the 2022 version; 2022 is indicated in the header.



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Many vessels participating in the ROP-BFT have positive balances at the Secretariat carried over from the 2021 fishing year. These balances are available on request and can be deducted from the total payment required for 2022. Please cite the ICCAT serial numbers of the vessels for which you request balances, and please **also cite these numbers when making payment**. The Secretariat is currently finalising the accounts for the farms/traps and will be informing you of the available amounts as soon as possible. Meanwhile, farms/traps are requested to make the first payment, and if positive balances are found on account closure, such amounts can be deducted from the next deployment following receipt of the information.

We should be grateful if all Request Forms could be filled out **fully**, to include the dates and port of embarkation / disembarkation and include details of the bank account to which any remaining balances should be paid, in the event that any excess is not carried over to the next year. Note that it may not be possible to accommodate late changes to initial requests, particularly changes in port of embarkation, due to travel and visa restrictions.

In order to avoid delays in the importation of equipment, the consortium will need to know well in advance the exact number of vessels that intend to operate. It is therefore of vital importance that the deadlines are respected and the information in the request is accurate and definitive.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment 1

VESSELS

For an equitable distribution of costs, the recruitment, training and equipment (start-up) fee for vessels which are participating for the first time or which participated for the last time in 2018 or prior to 2018, will be **€8,500**. The amount for this concept for returning vessels will be **€4,600**.

The rates for mobilisation fees and sea days will be as follows:

Mobilisation fee (vessels): **€5,500**

Vessels - Sea days: **€237** per day

The forms for requesting observers are available on the ICCAT web site at:

<https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/DEPLOYMENT-REQUEST-VESSEL-ENG.xlsx>

Completed forms for vessels, together with proof of full payment, must be received, at the latest by:

- 15 April 2022 for vessels starting 1 May
- 22 April 2022 for vessels starting 15 May
- 30 April 2022 for vessels starting 24 May
- 20 May 2022 for vessels starting 25 June onwards

Please ensure that Vessel Request Forms are filled out fully, including start and end dates and port of embarkation / disembarkation.

All lodgements should be made to the ICCAT ROP-BFT account:

- Name of the bank: Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA)
- Address of branch: Pso. Recoletos, 10 ala sur pl. 1, 28001 Madrid (Spain)
- Exact name of the account holder: Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT)
- Full account number (including bank codes): 0182 2370 46 0201518869
- IBAN (or BIC code if not applicable): IBAN: ES91 0182 2370 4602 0151 8869 / BIC: BBVAESMM

When making the lodgement, please indicate the **ICCAT Record number of the vessel for which the payment is being made**. A copy of the swift receipt should be sent to the Secretariat together with the request forms.

Please also ensure that a signed copy of the latest MoU (version 2022), available at <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/ICCAT BFT ROP MOU 2022 ENG.PDF>, is sent to the ROP implementing consortium.



Attachment 2

FARMS/TRAPS

For farms or traps which are participating for the first time or for which the last year of participation was 2018 or years prior to 2018, the recruitment, training and equipment (start-up) fee will be **€8,500**. Lodgements of these amounts for new farms/traps should be paid to the Secretariat by **30 April 2022**. The amount for this concept for returning farms/traps will be **€4,600**. In addition, for 2022, a fund of **€3,000** per farm will be required to cover possible quarantine days required by observers.

Therefore, farms already participating in the programme should ensure an initial lodgement of **€7,600** and new farms participating for the first time in 2022 **€11,500**. These payments should be made by **15 April 2022**, or at the time of first request for new farms.

The rates for mobilisation fees and farm days / traps days will be as follows for all deployments starting after **7 April 2022**:

- Mobilisation fee (farms and traps) **€4,500.00**
- Farm/trap days (no accommodation provided) €335.00 per day for deployments of 5+ days (minimum 5 days)
- Farm/trap days (accommodation provided) €267.00 per day for deployments of 5+ days (minimum 5 days)

For occasional fresh harvests/transfers, a one- or two-day deployment may be requested at the following rates, in addition to the mobilisation fee:

- 1 day with no accommodation provided: €723 per day (€723 + €4,500 = €5,223)
- 1 day with accommodation provided by the farm/trap: €655 per day (€655 + €4,500 = €5,155)
- 2 days with no accommodation provided: €529 per day (€1,058 + €4,500 = €5,558)
- 2 days with accommodation provided by the farm/trap: € 461 per day (€922 + €4,500 = €5,422)

Please note that such short-term deployment requests are only applicable to fresh harvest on an exceptional basis and may not be extended. Deployment requests requiring three or more days will be subject to the five-day minimum.

The forms for requesting observers are available on the ICCAT web site at:

https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/DEPLOYMENT-REQUEST-FARM_TRAP-ENG.xlsx

Please note that normally, completed forms for farms must reach the Secretariat at least 96 hours before the deployment is required. This same minimum period of 96 hours is also required for requests for extensions; the Secretariat and CPC authorities should be in copy to all such requests if sent directly to the consortium, as the consortium cannot approve such extensions without confirmation from the Secretariat. **Given the current situation, we would request that all farms submit requests as far in advance as possible, and preferably not less than two weeks in advance, in order to try to ensure coverage.**

All lodgements should be made to the ICCAT ROP-BFT account:

- Name of the bank: Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA)
- Address of branch: Pso. Recoletos, 10 ala sur pl. 1, 28001 – Madrid (Spain)
- Exact name of the account holder: Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (ICCAT)
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When making the lodgement, please indicate the **ICCAT Record number of the farm/trap for which the payment is being made**. A copy of the swift receipt should be sent to the Secretariat together with the request forms. The initial request should cover the full period required when known. Please note that while the consortium will attempt to fulfil requests for extensions to the dates initially requested, this cannot be guaranteed in all cases as observers will be selected according to their availability for the dates initially requested.

Please also ensure that a signed copy of the latest MoU (version 2022), available at https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/ICCAT_BFT_ROP_MOU_2022_ENG.PDF, is sent to the ROP implementing consortium