

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, 11 December 2023

ICCAT GBYP CIRCULAR # 1427/2023

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT GBYP 05/2023 – AERIAL SURVEY FOR BLUEFIN SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS – 2023 AERIAL SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS – ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT GBYP – PHASE 13)

I should like to transmit herewith the Call for Tenders ICCAT GBYP 05/2023 - Aerial survey for bluefin spawning aggregations - 2023 aerial survey data analysis - Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP – Phase 13).

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:

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Attachment: Call for Tenders 05/2023.

Call for Tenders ICCAT GBYP 05/2023
Aerial survey for bluefin spawning aggregations – 2023 Aerial survey, data analysis
Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna
(ICCAT GBYP – Phase 13)

1 GBYP background and objectives

The main objectives of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) are to improve: (a) the understanding of key biological and ecological processes, (b) current assessment methodology, (c) the management procedures, and (d) advice.

Key tasks are to reduce uncertainty in stock assessment and to provide robust management advice. This requires improved knowledge of key biological processes and parameters. Currently almost all the data used in stock assessments are obtained from fisheries-dependent data, which can be affected by changes in exploitation patterns and TACs. It is therefore important to obtain data from alternative sources, such as the aerial survey for bluefin tuna spawning aggregations, in order to verify the assumptions made when conducting the assessments or to improve the current data sets used in OM or MSE.

Therefore, one of the major research tasks under the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna has been the development of aerial surveys for estimating the abundance and biomass of spawning aggregations, aiming to provide a fishery-independent index of relative abundance of spawning stock biomass (all documents are available [here](#)).

In 2023, the GBYP aerial surveys were carried out in the three core spawning areas located in the Western and Central Mediterranean Sea (Block A: Balearic Sea, Block C: Southern Tyrrhenian Sea and Block E: Central-Southern Mediterranean), following the methodology that has already been developed in previous Phases ([GBYP aerial survey protocol](#)). The survey data will be analysed following the same methodology as last year in order to produce standardized index of relative spawning stock biomass and abundance.

This Call for Tenders is therefore aimed at private or public entities for the submission of proposals to carry out the full project, detailed below. Funds will be made available under GBYP Phase 13 to cover the related costs.

2 Contractor tasks (TORs)

The Contractor will provide a final comprehensive report on the analyses of all the data collected by the GBYP aerial survey in 2023. These analyses will be carried out following the same design-based approach already applied in previous surveys, aiming at producing a strict update of the GBYP aerial survey index of relative spawning stock biomass and abundance time series. The base data will be previously checked and corrected if necessary (this may require clarification from ICCAT).

3 Deliverables

#1 A draft final report will be submitted by **1 April 2024** at the latest, and will include the following:

- A detailed description of the methodology followed to carry out the analyses.
- The results from these analyses by area, providing estimates of density, abundance and biomass by area and including estimates of uncertainty.

#2 The final report, to be prepared taking into account any comments provided by the GBYP, will be submitted by **15 April 2024**, at the latest.

4 Contractor minimum qualifications

- Documented experience in aerial survey design and analyses; previous experience in aerial surveys for tuna species will be preferred.
- Documented experience in distance aerial surveys data analyses methodology.
- PhD or University degree in biological, natural, environmental or fishery sciences or related fields.
- Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish). Sound knowledge of English is highly desirable.

5 Request for proposals

Interested expert(s) should submit a proposal to the attention of Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary, with copy to Ms. Ana Martinez, at the following address: camille.manel@iccat.int and ana.martinez@iccat.int, by **19 January 2024**, including:

- a) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders (ICCAT GBYP 05/2023).
- b) A detailed proposal, based on the TORs of this Call for Tenders. Departures from the TORs may be made with detailed justification.
- c) The *curriculum vitae* of the institution, including the full address.
- d) An estimated total budget for carrying out the work. Being a short-term contract, the budget will be expressed as a lump sum figure.
- e) The name, address, and telephone number for contact purposes of the expert(s).
- f) The bank account of the expert/entity (bank name, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes) and, if applicable, the VAT/TAX identification code.
- g) A declaration that the expert(s) or entity (s) will follow the terms of this Call for Tenders, and/or any approved modifications agreed upon, and the administrative rules specified in the contract.
- h) A declaration that the comments eventually made on the draft final report (**Deliverable #1**) will be incorporated into the final report (**Deliverable #2**).
- i) A declaration that the expert(s) or entity(s) is covered by full insurance for the work to be carried out according to this Call for Tenders, excluding ICCAT from all responsibility concerning the work to be performed.
- j) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein, particularly specifying the date for providing the draft final report (**Deliverable #1**) and the final report (**Deliverable #2**).

The Contractor should be available to attend and report to any meeting requested by ICCAT; these costs will be paid on the basis of an addendum to the contract.

6 Payment details

Taking into account the schedule for carrying out the work, disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

1. 50% of the total amount of the contract upon **signature of the contract**.
2. 50% after the approval of **Deliverable #2** upon addressing comments by ICCAT; and approval of any administrative documents.

7 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. All documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

8 Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor within the scope of this Call for Tenders will remain the property of GBYP for the uses of GBYP and may not, in any case, be distributed by the Contractor. Scientific use of the data provided under this Call for Tenders by the Contractor will always be notified to ICCAT in advance.

For further information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact the GBYP Coordinator at the following address: francisco.alemany@iccat.int