

THE ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR BLUEFIN TUNA
(GBYP Phase 14)

Memorandum of understanding: BFT electronic tagging by AZTI
in the framework of ICCAT/GBYP Phase 14

Final Report

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AZTI

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1. Electronic Tagging Activities on BFT under the GBYP Phase 14 Framework

During GBYP Phase 14, AZTI conducted electronic tagging activities on Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) using both recreational fishing vessels and the professional live-bait fleet operating in the Cantabrian Sea, within the scope of the BFTindex 2025 survey.

The BFTindex 2025 cruise was carried out in June 2025 on board the fishing vessel *Pittar* during an 8-day campaign. A total of four LOTEK LAT 2310 electronic tags were successfully implanted in BFT individuals ranging from 105 to 133 cm CFL (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). Fin clip samples for genetic analyses were collected from three of the four tagged specimens, following GBYP biological sampling protocols.

In addition to this work, three separate trips were conducted aboard the recreational charter vessel *Fishing and Sailing Basque Country* (29/09/2025, 30/10/2025 and 18/11/2025). During these outings, no successful tagging events were achieved, despite appropriate searching effort and fishing activity.

Figure 1. Deployment locations of the electronic tags. Southwestern Bay of Biscay



Table 1: Data of the implanted tags LOTEK LAT2310

Area	Date	Hour	Conv. Tag	E-tag	Specie	FL	Latitude	Longitude	tagger	Vessel
B.Biscay	26/06/2025	20:45	AAA0010142	L231-1203	BFT	105	43.54	-2.17	Iñigo Onandia	Pittar
B.Biscay	30/06/2025	14:40	AAA0010143	L231-1235	BFT	110	43.41	-1.77	Iñigo Onandia	Pittar
B.Biscay	30/06/2025	18:55	AAA0010144	L231-1239	BFT	105	43.43	-1.74	Martin Cabello	Pittar
B.Biscay	30/06/2025	19:15	AAA0010145	L231-1240	BFT	133	43.42	-1.74	Iñigo Onandia	Pittar

Figura 2: Proceso de marcado de un ejemplar de 105 cm a bordo del barco *Pittar*.



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