

Terms of Reference for a feasibility study for a potential ROP-TROP in ICCAT tropical tunas fisheries

(prepared by the ICCAT Secretariat and PWG Chair)

Background to ICCAT

...[...]

General ICCAT background

...[...]

Background to ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes and the current study

In accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, ICCAT CPCs implement National Observer programmes in several fisheries covering both scientific and control-based objectives. There are also ICCAT "Regional Observer Programme" for eastern bluefin tuna and high seas transshipment operations. The Regional Programmes are managed by the Secretariat and observers are trained, supplied and deployed by external consortiums during specific periods and operations (e.g. harvesting of bluefin tuna in farms).

Discussions are ongoing for an amended Management Plan for tropical tunas including the possibility for a new Regional Observer Programme (ROP-TROP) although the specific coverage, scope and financing modalities are yet to be decided. To assist with further discussions and a potential decision by ICCAT it was agreed for a feasibility study to be conducted.

It was agreed at the IMM meeting in June 2024 that the Secretariat, with assistance from the PWG Chair would prepare the Terms of Reference and tender for the Feasibility study for consideration by the PWG in the 2024 Annual Session and launched thereafter.

It should be noted that a previous programme for tropical tunas was prepared although never implemented. ICCAT adopted Recommendation 11-01 establishing a programme by 1 January 2014 covering 100% of all surface fishing vessels 20 metres or more fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin tunas in the area/time closure. However, despite a tender procedure and a company selected for the training and deployment of observers in October 2013, observers were not deployed due to logistical challenges. Following further discussions at the Annual Session in November 2014, the Commission adopted Recommendation 14-01 in which the programme was removed.

...[...]

Terms of Reference

The specific coverage levels, fleets, key objectives and periods of deployment for the proposed observer programme yet are to be decided, hence the feasibility study should consider the following variables and elements to assist in future decision making.

- Monitoring, Control and Surveillance needs and the role and objective of the Regional Observer Programme per fishing fleet/gear type in meeting those needs,
- Vessel types/ gears (purse seine, longline, baitboat and other vessels authorised to fish in ICCAT tropical tunas fisheries),
- Number of vessels in each gear group by relevant CPC,
- Time scales for observer deployments based on the specificities of each vessel/gear group, and objectives of programme (time/area closure for FADs etc.); and
- Observer coverage levels (based on 5 - 100%).

The study will need to consider these and apply them to several elements relating to a potential programme, including but not limited to:

- Ports of embarkation / disembarkation,
- Language requirements,
- Payment and coordination and management structure (e.g. Secretariat or outsourced),
- Role of Secretariat and capacity/resource needs/working hours,
- Lessons learnt from previous and current tRFMO programmes including those in ICCAT including the ongoing ROP programmes for bluefin (ROP-BFT) and transshipment (ROP-TRANS),
- Relevant observer safety requirements,
- Observer selection and training requirements and procedures,
- Deployment and travel logistics, including but not limited to visas, travel arrangements, timing of embarkation/disembarkation in ports and at sea,
- Unit costs on the basis of:
 - Training
 - Deployment (insurance and travel)
 - Reporting and follow-up
 - Other logistical considerations and regulatory requirements (visas, transits...)
 - Equipment, including communication.

The study should also consider payment options and potential sources of funding for programme implementation, including programme evaluation, programme backstopping and quality assurance.

Information shall be collated and analyzed based on discussions with the ICCAT Secretariat, Commission Officers and/or relevant CPCs.

Some travel is foreseen, including with the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid and to a maximum of two regional key CPCs ports (e.g. Dakar).

...[...]

Key deliverables and timeframes

An inception meeting will be held within 20 days of the signing of the contract composed of the ICCAT Secretariat, Commission Officers and/or relevant CPCs as needed.

The draft report shall be submitted within 60 days of signing the contract and made available to the IMM Meeting in mid-2025 unless otherwise informed by the ICCAT Secretariat.

...[...]

Expertise required

Contractors will be expected to provide the following expertise when carrying out the requested tasks and ToR:

- Experience with providing technical deliverables in the context of RFMOs,
- A proven understanding of RFMO monitoring control and surveillance measures,
- Experience with Observer Programmes, ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes would be an advantage,
- Expertise in undertaking Feasibility Studies for conservation and management measures including Observer Programme design and evaluation,
- Full insurance coverage for the experts conducting the study,
- Qualified personnel for quality assurance and Feasibility Study backstopping,
- Financial statements.

...[...]

Budget

...[...]