INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

AOTTP - ICCAT
SALIDA
Nº 140
FECHA 30 NOV. 2016

Madrid, 30 November 2016

CIRCULAR ICCAT AOTTP # 00140/16

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT/AOTTP 07/2016 Evidence based approach for sustainable management of tuna resources in the Atlantic-Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) TAGGING ACTIVITIES IN NORTH WEST ATLANTIC

I have the honour to transmit the Call for Tenders ICCAT/AOTTP 07/2016 Evidence based approach for sustainable management of tuna resources in the Atlantic - Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) TAGGING ACTIVITIES IN NORTH WEST ATLANTIC.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

COMISION INTERNACIONAL ICCAT Conservación AT. ATL.

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman:	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	F. Donatella
Second Vice Chair:	R. Delgado	STACFAD Chair:	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		

- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attached documentation: Call for Tender 07/2016

CALL FOR TENDERS ICCAT/AOTTP 07/2016

Evidence based approach for sustainable management of tuna resources in the Atlantic - Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

(ICCAT/AOTTP – TAGGING ACTIVITIES IN NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC)

ICCAT/AOTTP General Background and Objectives

The overall objective of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) is to contribute to the food security and economic growth of the Atlantic coastal states by ensuring sustainable management of their tropical tuna resources. Specifically the AOTTP will use the information it collects on tuna stocks in the Atlantic to provide improved and updated scientific advice to developing coastal states, and other Contracting Parties, enabling them to adopt appropriate Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for tunas in the framework of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

AOTTP will collect tag-recapture, and associated data, for the main tropical tuna species in the Atlantic Ocean. Neritic species will also be tagged in an *ad hoc* manner. The data will be used to calculate key population parameters in support of stock assessments (e.g. growth rates, natural mortality, exploitation rates and stock structure) and subsequent management. Scientists from relevant Contracting Parties of ICCAT will be trained in tagging, data-collection and the use of tagging data in stock assessment and management.

This Call for Tenders concerns one of the most important activities of the AOTTP expected to deliver Expected Result 1 (Tag-recapture and associated data for the three main tropical tuna and on neritic tuna species in the Atlantic are stored in a database at the ICCAT Secretariat) via the implementation of Activity 1 (Tagging of tunas).

Note that the tagging activities will be divided into 2 parts; this first lasting 18 months and the second lasting 12 months. This Call for Tenders relates to the first 18 month period. After the first 18 month tagging activities have been completed, the data (also recaptures) and experiences of the various tagging teams will be reviewed by the AOTTP Steering Committee and used to inform improvements and modifications for the second phase. Tagging teams that have performed well during the first phase will be preferred for the second phase.

AOTTP has a strong commitment to capacity development among relevant stakeholder groups from developing countries around the tropical Atlantic Ocean. Proposals demonstrating leadership and/or strong involvement from developing country fisheries institutions, public bodies and scientists will, therefore, be preferred.

AOTTP FIRST (18 MONTH) TAGGING PROGRAMME 2016 to 2017

In the first AOTTP 18 month tagging phase, teams will be deployed to tag tropical tunas across the Atlantic Ocean. The tags will be distributed as evenly as possible among the three main species, *i.e.* yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). Neritic species, *e.g.* Little Tunny *Euthynnus alletteratus*), and Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) will also be tagged on an opportunistic basis.
During the programme, several types of tag will be used to achieve different objectives. All tags will be procured by ICCAT/AOTTP and delivered to the Contractor(s) prior to the commencement of cruises.

Conventional dart tags will be the main type of tag used. These are simple plastic tags uniquely identified and implanted at the basis of the second dorsal fin of the tuna through the pterygiophores. Twenty percent (**20%**) of fish should be double tagged which allows "tag shedding rates" to be estimated.

Tagged fish (circa 8.5%) will also be marked chemically by injecting them with, either oxytetracycline or strontium chloride which leaves a white mark in the hard parts of the animal as it grows, in particular in the otoliths, the bones and the spines. When the hard parts are "read" from a recaptured fish, its age can be estimated together with its growth rate.

Internally implanted archival and/or pop-up electronic tags will also be deployed to collect important behavioral data, in particular on horizontal and vertical movements of tuna. Training and guidance in their use and deployment will be provided by ICCAT/AOTTP.

This Call for Tender relates to the north-west Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean. Ideally proposals should include both the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, but the territorial waters of the USA, Canada, Bermuda and areas to the west of the Caribbean island chain from Bahamas in the north to Trinidad & Tobago in the south are also eligible.

The AOTTP is targeting similar numbers of each of the 3 main tropical species but this will clearly depend on the local availability of each species. Targets will be most easily be reached for skipjack but might be difficult for yellowfin and bigeye. Potential Contractors should state how they would deal with this issue.

Tuna fishing is highly seasonal and potential Contractors should provide a chronogram stating the exact time periods (months) during which they will plan their tagging to take place, and state their justifications.
Contractors should clarify how tagging will be distributed among "free schools", oil platforms, FADs, and FADs belonging to purse-seiners where relevant.

Tagging operations should not take place close to the most active fishing areas. Note: It is relatively easy to tag tunas in the core fishing zones, but ICCAT/AOTTP wants to avoid short-term recoveries which have less scientific value.

Contractors should describe in detail the logistics of their tagging operations, the fishing gears they propose to use and outline how mortality of returned fish will be kept to a minimum. If opting to use baitboats, Contractors should describe their vessel capacity for live bait storage, and the equipment to be carried and used to catch live bait. They should consider where, when, and how live bait can be caught. If live baits are to be bought from artisanal fishermen, they should describe where, when and how, and include necessary budget. Additionally, if commercial fishing vessels are to be used, a description should be provided of the vessel's capacity to comfortably accommodate and feed the tagging team on board, and ensure their safety.

Tagging shall be distributed over as much of the age and size range of the three target species as possible. The spatial distribution of the tagging should also be as 'representative' as possible.

Contractor tasks

- The successful Contractor(s), will work in close consultation with the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team, and will tag fish in the previously specified regions of the Atlantic.
- ICCAT/AOTTP will work with the successful Contractor(s) to procure all necessary agreements with local authorities when carrying out tagging within national jurisdictions. Note that by ICCAT **Rec. [11-06]** cooperation with the relevant coastal states, all of which are ICCAT CPCs, is ensured.
- Tagging teams will be provided and trained by the Contractor(s) in close collaboration with the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team.
- The Contractor(s) shall be responsible for all basic data management and for uploading all data collected to the ICCAT database using the Memento smartphone Application developed by AOTTP.
- ICCAT/AOTTP will manage the database and provide advice, hardware and software in all procedures relating to data collection and storage.
- A vitally important component of any fish tagging programme is to maximize: the recovery of the tags, all relevant metadata, and in some cases the actual fish itself, e.g. the chemically and internally tagged specimens, which will also be tagged with a differently colored (coral pink) conventional dart tag. The ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team will coordinate recovery activities in all the major Atlantic tuna ports. Contractors, however, should provide some details/ideas as how best their activities might be used to help the AOTTP Coordination team raise awareness of the tagging programme and increase recovery rates.
- The necessary tags (all types, except 'chemical'), and applicators will be provided by ICCAT/AOTTP.
- Tagging tables, tagging mattresses, tag blocks, mp3 recorders, measuring tapes, gloves, computer hardware and software, chemical tagging liquids, and cradles will be provided by the Contractor, but all must first be approved by the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team.
- The Android smartphones needed for recording data and transmission to the ICCAT/AOTTP will be purchased by the Contractor, after the approval by the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team.
- Manuals and other relevant training material will be provided by the AOTTP.
- If the targets specified are not met in full, financial penalties will be imposed per fish unless the Contractor can provide a well documented instance of a '*force majeure*' impeding the fishing activities.
- No commercial fishing is conducted during any of the tagging trips.
- The Contractor shall conduct all tagging operations in such a way to avoid short-term recoveries as much as possible (i.e. try to keep away from main centers of commercial fishing activity; avoiding fishing the same school twice).
- If it appears that tagging targets are being met too quickly the Contractor must first consult with the ICCAT/AOTTP coordination for direction. [ICCAT/AOTTP wants to spread out the releases in time (as well as space) as much as possible].
- In instances of high abundance of fish; tagging targets specified may be exceeded by the Contractor after consultation with the ICCAT/AOTTP coordination. No extra payments will, however, be made.
- The Contractor will be responsible for all licenses/permissions pertaining to the tagging of tuna and the capture of live-bait in national waters. The ICCAT Secretariat will however, provide any necessary supporting documents.
- No storage or retention of fish will be allowed other than that strictly necessary for fishing (ie. bait) the fish to tag or corresponding to fish to be sampled within AOTTP activities. However, very small quantities of fish (<100 kg) may be retained on board, sufficient for consumption by the crew. Fish damaged by the tagging operations should be preferred for these uses.
- The Contractor must take photographs/videos of the all related tagging activities (e.g. bait -fishing and storage; fishing for tuna; tagging and release; any other relevant activity), which should be sent to ICCAT/AOTTP.
- Contractor will take photographs of the (*in situ*) deployment of all electronic tags and transmit to ICCAT/AOTTP.

Conventional, electronic and chemical tagging of tropical tunas in the North-West Atlantic and Caribbean

Offers under AOTTP Tagging in North West Atlantic shall ensure the following:

a) At least **9,000** individual tropical tuna should be tagged, shared as evenly as is practical among bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin. Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) should not be targeted but if accidentally caught with the main 3 tropical species they should be tagged.
b) At least **1,800 (20%)** of the overall target of 9,000 fish should be double-tagged, and the age/size range across all species should be as wide as possible.

c) That tunas tagged are distributed as evenly as possible throughout the areas targeted (Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, territorial waters of USA, Canada, Bermuda, and areas to the west of the Caribbean archipelago).
d) A minimum of **80** internal for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye and **20** pop-up for yellowfin/bigeye electronic tags should be deployed, distributed evenly between the target species.
e) Tagging is planned according to the seasonal availability of the species being targeted.
f) Commercial fishing vessels used by AOTTP must be on the ICCAT List of Authorised Vessels (available by emailing aottp@iccat.int).
g) A minimum of **730** fish, spread among the three tropical tuna species, should be chemically tagged with either oxytetracycline or strontium chloride.
h) Tagging work is controlled by a Tagging Leader (Annex I) who has experience tagging tunas. These Leaders will work in close, constant contact with the AOTTP Coordination team and be responsible for managing all field activities. He/she will write and submit Reports and ensure data are submitted/uploaded to ICCAT. Management of the scientific teams on board, and their training and monitoring will also be the responsibility of the Tagging Leader.
i) That proposals include substantial involvement of local public/private entities responsible for research and data collection on ICCAT tuna fisheries.
j) All necessary permits for accessing and operating in the waters under the jurisdiction of each CPC concerned have been procured.

Interested Contractor(s) or (s) shall provide detailed proposals describing how the AOTTP objectives for the tagging work in the north-west Atlantic will be achieved. The prospective Contractor(s) should endeavor to ensure coverage of areas and tuna size groups as indicated above. Fishing is difficult to predict. For this reason accurate and timely reports are essential, detailing the numbers and size ranges of the fish tagged. ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team, therefore, reserves the right (where reasonable) to intervene in planned tagging to alter activities so adequate coverage of regions, species and size-classes is attained.

As mentioned, prospective Contractor(s) could propose to tag fish across the north-western tropical Atlantic. Proposals that include one type of tagging (e.g. electronic pop-up/archival tagged fish) will also, however, be considered. It is also re-iterated here that proposals that do not demonstrate evidence of local involvement, and a commitment to capacity building and training, will not be considered. Given that the AOTTP objective is to accomplish the components listed above, ICCAT/AOTTP reserves the right to negotiate with individual proponents the partial funding of sub-components of each proposal where relevant.

Detailed descriptions of the proposed activities and any modifications/suggestions should be supplied in proposals.

Contractor minimum qualifications

☑ Documented multi-year experience in tuna or tuna-species studies; previous experience in tagging or local multi-year tagging.

☑ Availability of sufficient qualified scientific and technical staff to carry out the duties.

☑ Availability of the necessary vessel(s) or traps to carry out the duties.

☑ Availability of at least one specialist in "populating" tagging databases.

☑ Excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish).

Request for bids

Interested entities should submit an offer to the attention of Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, at the following address: driss.meski@iccat.int by **17:00 GMT by 20 January 2017, including:**

a) Acknowledgment of this Call for Tenders (ICCAT/AOTTP 07/2016)
b) A detailed offer, based on the objectives of this Call for Tenders, clearly specifying the objective(s) for which the tender is submitted, describing the strata where the tagging will be conducted. Departures from the overall tagging design, described above, can be made with justification.

c) The *curricula vitae* of the scientific staff.

d) The *curricula vitae* of the institution(s) or entity(ies) applying for the ICCAT/AOTTP tagging activity 2016-2017, with any documented experience in these fields, to include recent and relevant contracts for the same or similar items and other references (including contract numbers, points of contact with telephone numbers and other relevant information).

e) A preliminary estimated budget for the tagging activity and for populating the ICCAT tagging databases, to be detailed by individual components (e.g., tagging staff, organization of staff including the time for data input, vessel rent, operational costs, travel, consumables, etc.) and any discount terms (overhead to cover administrative and general costs could be admitted within a maximum limit of 10% of the personnel costs).

f) The name, address, and telephone number of the tendering body.

g) The bank account of the tendering body, (bank name, account number, IBAN and SWIFT codes), and the IVA=VAT identification code.

h) The institutional and administrative background of the tendering body (e.g., statutes, type of institution, annual budget, budget control procedures, etc.).

i) A detailed list of any sub-contracting activities.

j) A declaration that the tendering institution will follow: the AOTTP tagging design, the AOTTP *Tagging Manual* provided by the ICCAT/AOTTP; all recommendations made by the ICCAT Steering Committee; and all details of the present Call for Tenders. The Contractor/ should also declare that any modifications will be first agreed upon with the AOTTP Coordination Team and that all administrative rules and procedures specified in the contract will be strictly adhered to.

k) A declaration that all the comments made on the Draft Final Report will be incorporated in the Final Report prior to submission to the ICCAT SCRS.

l) A declaration that the staff and all the subcontracted staff will be covered by full insurance for tagging activities at sea, according to the Call for Tenders. These should exclude ICCAT from any responsibility concerning any activities undertaken by the tendering institution/organization.

m) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included herein, confirming dates for the submission of the Draft Final Report and Final Report.

The ICCAT Secretariat will make a selection of the offers in consultation with the AOTTP Steering Committee. The ICCAT Secretariat will inform potential Contractors on the result of the selection process by 20 February 2017. Offers that fail to furnish the required documentation or information, or that reject the terms and conditions of the Call for Tenders will not be considered. Contractors can be either research institutions, such as government or private laboratories, universities, or private consultancy firms, individual scientists or other entities having the qualifications required. The Contractor should be available to report to any meeting requested by ICCAT/AOTTP. Contractors should be aware that ICCAT/AOTTP will not pay for any rises in the price of fuel.

Deliverables

#1 A **Short Report** (template will be provided by AOTTP) detailing preparations for the tagging activities, including the identification of the Tagging Leaders, all protocols for tagging, any vessel chartering agreements and a short description of the work carried out up to that date, to be submitted at the latest **30 days after the signature of the contract.**

#2 Tagging activities will be divided up into individual cruises or "events". Immediately after each such "event" the Tagging Leader will submit **"Reports"** to the AOTTP Coordinator summarising all the activities that took place during that cruise or "event". The cruise reports will be short (template will be provided by AOTTP) and will outline: details of any crew/person involved; where exactly the vessel went if relevant; where the tagging took place; where bait was captured if relevant; the numbers, species and size-profile of the fish caught and released; and the data successfully uploaded. At the halfway stage (in terms of tagging targets) a short **Executive Summary** will be produced which will include a synthesis of tagging activities, and any recommendations/problems.

#3 Each successful Contractor will submit a **Draft Final Report** one calendar month after the tagging activities have ceased (a reporting template will be provided by ICCAT/AOTTP) containing:

a) A full description of the work carried out during the tagging activities in the various areas, with the total number of tagged tunas and specifications of the double-tagged tuna.

b) Detailed descriptions of the methodology and protocols (particularly whether tagging was carried out strictly according to the ICCAT *Tagging Manual*).

c) Maps of the areas in which the tagging was carried out.

d) Detailed tables with the definitive number of tagged specimens by area, size composition and type of tag.

e) Any possible recommendations for adjusting the tagging strategy for future tagging.

f) An Executive Summary and

g) A PowerPoint presentation of the main results achieved.

#4 Successful Contractor(s) will submit **Final Reports one month after submission of the Draft Final Report** taking into account any comments which will be provided in a timely fashion by ICCAT/AOTTP, and also **A Full Administrative Report,** including copies of all the administrative documents required by ICCAT/AOTTP.

(Note: To facilitate the reporting requirements, the AOTTP will provide templates for all reports).

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

- 20% of the total amount of the contract upon **signing of the contract**.
- 20% upon completion and acceptance of **Deliverable #1**.
- 30% After receipt of all cruise reports, executive summary and data, demonstrating that half of the overall tagging targets have been reached, i.e. **Deliverable #2.** Note: ICCAT will negotiate financial penalties for failure to reach tagging targets promised prior to the confirmation of any Contract.
- 30% after receipt of **Deliverable #3,** incorporation of comments by the ICCAT/AOTTP Steering Committee, approval of the final report **(Deliverable #4)** the acceptance of the full Administrative Report **(Deliverable #4)**.

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. Tagging data shall be input in the ICCAT tagging database. All documents submitted can be in either English, French or Spanish.

Copyright

All the material produced by the Contractor will remain the property of the ICCAT/AOTTP, will be kept confidential, and cannot, in any case, be circulated by the Contractor selected. The scientific use of the data by the Contractor shall always be notified to ICCAT in advance for clearance.

For further information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact the ICCAT/AOTTP team at the following address: aottp@iccat.int.

Annex 1

Duties and Responsibilities of the Tagging (Cruise) Leader

The duties and responsibilities of the Tagging (Cruise) Leader shall be as follows:

- Be the liaison officer between the Contractor and the ICCAT/AOTTP for all practical issues concerning the tagging activities.
- Selection and training of the staff engaged in the tagging programme, organising the necessary training courses.
- Implement the logistical and operational components of the tag release activities (conventional and internal/pop-up electronic tagging) including planning, tagger training and supervision of all aspects of the operational releases.
- Lead any tagging cruises, that may involve long periods at sea.
- Ensure that all data collected as part of the tag and release activities of tags under the ICCAT/AOTTP are properly recorded, transcribed in electronic form, and uploaded to the ICCAT/AOTTP databases.
- Arrange, on behalf of the Contractor, for any vessel chartering, contracting staff for tagging operations and purchasing any of the gear or fish required to properly implement the tagging program.
- Prepare reports, as required, summarizing all tag release and recovery activities, in strict cooperation with the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordination team.
- Provide information describing the AOTTP for promotional purposes.
- Work with the AOTTP Coordination team to prepare all necessary documents for requesting permission for accessing the national waters under the jurisdiction of each CPC concerned (to be formally requested by the Contractor).
- Work closely with the ICCAT/AOTTP Coordinator, maintaining effective and productive communication channels.