

COMISION INTERAMERICANA DEL ATUN TROPICAL INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

Call for Consultancy

Close-Kin Mark-Recapture Study of Sharks at the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) invites applications of individuals/entities to a consultancy on the design and implementation of close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) studies of shark populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The IATTC is the regional fisheries management organization responsible for the implementation of the 2003 Antigua Convention, the objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species and other species of fish taken by vessels fishing for tunas and tuna like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It is comprised of 21 members (including a regional economic integration organization – the European Union, and a “fishing entity”, Chinese Taipei) as well as a few Cooperating Non-members. More information about the IATTC can be found at www.iattc.org.

The IATTC is therefore an international intergovernmental organization (IGO) established by a treaty and governed by its provisions as well as the relevant applicable rules of international law. As other IGOs it has a permanent secretariat (“Administration”) headed by a Director that it appoints for renewal periods of four years and who, in turn, appoints the members of the staff, including the scientific staff.

Sharks and other elasmobranchs are increasingly important components of the ecosystems and fisheries of the eastern Pacific Ocean, and robust estimates of their abundance are essential to the conservation and management responsibilities of the Commission. Close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) is an emerging genetic approach that can provide such estimates of abundance and related demographic parameters. The Commission therefore seeks to engage an expert to advise on, and support the implementation of, CKMR studies for shark populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

In view of the specialized nature of this work, it is most important that the expert have substantial and direct experience with the design and application of close-kin mark-recapture methods, with the sampling of shark populations, and with the genetic analyses that underpin CKMR.

The consultancy is envisaged as a retainer arrangement under which the expert would provide advice and support to the Commission on an as-needed basis, with the specific tasks and schedule to be agreed with the expert. The maximum billable amount under this contract is 25,000 EURO. This figure is a ceiling rather than a guaranteed sum: the amount actually payable will depend on the specific tasks undertaken, and work will be invoiced against tasks agreed and completed.

Selection Criteria

As stressed above, the essential criterion for selection of the applicants is the level and quality of their experience with close-kin mark-recapture methods and the associated sampling and genetic analyses, as detailed in the terms of reference below. Applicants will also be assessed on their justification of their ability to carry out the types of tasks described in a cost-effective manner, having regard to the retainer nature and budget ceiling of this contract. Working knowledge of

English is required as well as excellent communication skills, both oral and written, in that language; proficiency in Spanish will be considered as an asset.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference of the consultancy must be broad and flexible, since the purpose of the consultancy is to advise and support the Commission in the design and implementation of close-kin mark-recapture studies of shark populations in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and to make practical and concrete recommendations taking into account best practices in the field.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate expertise and capabilities in the following areas:

- Expertise with sampling shark populations.
 - Expertise with close-kin mark-recapture methods broadly.
 - Specific expertise with conducting and advising the genetic analyses required for CKMR.
- Experience with the logistics of handling and transporting CITES-listed species, and facilities and capabilities to run genetic analyses – including DNA quality testing and stock structure analyses – in house.

Specific deliverables will be agreed with the expert and may include, among others:

- Sampling designs for the genetic analyses required for CKMR.
- Analyses of DNA quality.
- Facilitation of communication and collaboration between the IATTC and external genetics service providers.

Applications

Applications may be submitted in either English or Spanish and should be sent no later than **07 August 2026**, in electronic format to tmusano@iattc.org, or to the following address:

Teresa Musano
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive,
La Jolla CA 92037-1509
USA

Applications should include the following:

- A cover letter containing a statement of purpose of the application and succinct descriptions of the relevant experiences and abilities of the candidate.
- Curriculum Vitae of the key individual(s) to be involved in the contract work – preferably completing, electronically or in hardcopy, the IATTC personal history form that can be accessed at <http://www.iattc.org/StaffVacancies/IATTCPersonalHistoryForm.pdf>
- A list of references with recent knowledge of the applicant's (individual or entity) qualifications and experience that may be contacted by IATTC staff.