



Madrid, 23 May 2016

**ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3022 / 2016**

**SUBJECT: 2016 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS  
(Madrid, Spain, 5-9 September, 2016)**

I have the honour to inform you that an Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems will be held on 5-9 September 2016, at the Secretariat offices in Madrid.

Attached please find the objectives, the Tentative Agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on our web site ([www.iccat.int](http://www.iccat.int)).

In order to have an estimation of the number of participants in advance of the session I would also appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **22 August 2016**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*P'*  
Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

*MUNEU*



**DISTRIBUTION:**

**- Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman:	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
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**- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attach.:** Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.

## **2016 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS**

*(Madrid, Spain – 5-9 September 2016)*

### **Objectives**

#### ***Pertaining to ecosystems***

The Sub-committee aims to continue the work required to assess the feasibility of and provide information towards implementing ecosystems based fisheries management (EBFM) in agreement with Resolution 15-11. The group will discuss the progress made towards this objective as well as the possibility of liaising with other tuna RFMOs to discuss issues of mutual relevance and benefit.

#### ***Pertaining to by-catch***

In response to Rec. 11-09 the Sub-committee agreed to examine the trend of annual by-catch number and by-catch rate of seabirds as a first step in the evaluation of the effect of the new mitigation measures. In addition, the Sub-committee agreed to conduct the estimation of total number of sea turtles by fishery as a first step in the evaluation of impact of ICCAT fisheries. In 2016, estimation for longline fishery will be the main topic.

The Sub-Committee will thus;

1. Explore “best practices” for estimation of total extrapolated by-catch and, where possible, by species. For this purpose, conduct comparative studies of sea turtle by-catch ratio and species composition among different longline fleets.
2. Map sea turtle by-catch rates against EFFDIS effort estimates.
3. Review and compile indirect by-catch mortality estimates for sea turtles, and the estimation methodologies.
4. Collect information from CPCs with gillnet fisheries about sea turtle by-catch data availability as well as existing data collection systems in relation to sea turtle by-catch. And also, with this information, develop a research plan for sea turtle by-catch by gillnets and artisanal longlines.

## **Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
  - Ecosystems*
  - 2. Review the progress that has been made in implementing ecosystem based fisheries management and enhanced stock assessments
  - 3. Assess research needs and prioritize research activities in order to develop a long term research plan
  - 4. Develop proposals for obtaining common Oceans ABNJ tuna project funding to support a joint meeting between tRFMOs on the implementation of the EBFM approach
  - 5. Establish clear EBFM goals and objectives to be discussed and considered by the Commission
  - 6. Review ecosystem indicators for all ecological components of EBFM (i.e. target species, by-catch, habitat and trophic relationships)
    - 6.1 Explore adequacy of indicators and review new ones
    - 6.2 Review ecosystem drivers of abundance and mode of action
  - By-catch*
7. Total effort estimates by fishery
  - 7.1 Longline
    - 7.1.1 Review TASK II longline effort data coverage
    - 7.1.2 Review the methodology to be used to update the longline EFFDIS data
  - 7.2 Other gears
8. Sea turtle
  - 8.1 Review sea turtle by-catch data received by CPCs
  - 8.2 Map sea turtle by-catch rates against EFFDIS effort estimates. Review by-catch data
  - 8.3 Indirect by-catch mortality
  - 8.4 Method to estimate total mortality
9. Sea birds
  - 9.1 By-catch indicators
    - 9.1.1 Seabird mitigation measures pre and post implementation of Rec. 11-09 in the south of 25S
    - 9.1.2 General description of longline operations in the south of 25S
    - 9.1.3 Review of by-catch number and effort (including their distribution and coverage)
    - 9.1.4 By-catch rate pre and post implementation in the south of 25S
    - 9.1.5 Review TASK II longline data coverage in the south of 25S
    - 9.1.6 Estimation of total amount of longline effort in the south of 25S
  - 9.2 Review seabird tracking data
  - 9.3 Assess the efficacy of by-catch mitigation measures
    - 9.3.1 Estimation of total by-catch number
    - 9.3.2 Modeling approach
    - 9.3.3 Identify data gap
  - 9.4 Seabird by-catch and mitigation in the Mediterranean
10. Other matters
11. Recommendations
  - 11.1 General recommendations
  - 11.2 Recommendations with financial implications
12. Adoption of the Report and closure

## **Additional information for participants**

### **1. Date and venue**

5 (Monday) to 9 September (Friday) 2016. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, September 5). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: c/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain. For a map with the Secretariat's location and information about Madrid please consult <http://www.iccat.int/Madrid.htm>

### **2. Contact information**

Co-Chair (by-catch): Dr Kotaro Yokawa (yokawa@fra.affrc.go.jp)  
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Tel: + 81 54 336 6000

Co-Chair (EBFM): Dr Alex Hanke (alex.hanke@dfo.mpo.gc.ca)  
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St. Andrews New Brunswick E5B 2L9  
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Secretariat Contact: Dr Paul De Bruyn (paul.debruyn@iccat.int)  
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Tel: +34 91 416 5600; Fax: +34 91 415 2612

### **3. Language**

The working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French.

### **4. Call for scientific papers**

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents, which were revised in 2015. These deadlines provide the rapporteurs with valuable information to better fit the meeting timetable as well as allow the Secretariat to make the documents available to participants in advance of the meeting. In 2015 the SCRS "proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents should be implemented; these documents should be provided in their entirety at least one week before the meeting in which they are to be presented to facilitate their review by participating scientists prior to these meetings". As such the full documents for this meeting should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **29 August 2016**. Authors are reminded to closely follow the Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series ([http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/Other/Guide\\_ColVol\\_ENG\\_2009.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/Other/Guide_ColVol_ENG_2009.pdf)). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

### **5. Provision of data**

In 2016 the Sub-committee on Ecosystems and By-catch has been requested by the Commission to conduct the evaluation of the effect of the new mitigation measures on seabird by-catch (Rec. 11-09). As outlined in the 2015 report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) the following information has been requested to conduct this work and should be provided by **31 July 2016**;

CPCs with current and historic longline fishing effort south of 25°S to report the following to the SC-ECO meeting 2016:

1. Using the ST09 forms, number of seabirds observed caught, number of hooks observed hauled, amount of effort by logbook in the area south of 25°S for the period 2010-2015, to compare pre and post implementation of Rec. 11-09.
2. Distribution map for (1).
3. General description of longline operation in the area south of 25°S (target species, shallow night/deep day sets, etc.).
4. Description of mitigation measures adopted by fishers pre and post implementation of Rec. 11-09 (2010-2015) in the area south of 25°S.
5. As far as possible, estimations of total number of seabirds caught by species (or lowest taxonomic group possible) per fishery per year in the area south of 25°S, for years in which observer data are available (period 2010-2014), with explanation of methods used for calculation (form discussion on methodologies for most effectively making these estimations).

## **6. Funding**

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data.

According with the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **22 July 2016**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building is available in the ICCAT web site at <http://www.iccat.int/en/meetingsFunds.htm>. It is highly recommended to visit this web page in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is necessary to fully complete the invitation form including explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting and how it relates to the meeting objectives.

## **7. Hotel information**

The following table shows some hotels located within walking distance of the Secretariat. The room rates shown are indicative and are not guaranteed. Participants are asked to make their own reservations.

Hotel	Rates (€)
ABBA Madrid Hotel Avda. América, 32 28028 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 212 5000; Fax +34 91 212 5001 <a href="http://www.abbahoteles.com">http://www.abbahoteles.com</a>	Double room single use: €95 Double room: €105 Breakfast included (10% VAT included)
AC Avenida de América C/ Cartagena, 83 28028 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 724 4240; Fax +34 91 724 4241 reservas.acamerica@ac-hotels.com <a href="http://www.ac-hotels.com/">http://www.ac-hotels.com/</a>	Single room €120 (+10% VAT) Breakfast not included
Apartamentos Togumar C/ Canillas, 59 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel. + 34 91 519 00 51; Fax +34 91 519 48 45	Double room: €75 DUI room: €65 (10% VAT included) Breakfast included
Silken Puerta de América Hotel Avda. América, 41 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 744 54 00; Fax +34 91 744 54 01 <a href="http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-puerta-america-madrid/">http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-puerta-america-madrid/</a>	Double Deluxe room: 170€ (10% VAT included) Breakfast not included (22€)

Further information may be obtained in <http://www.iccat.int/en/Madrid.htm>