



Madrid – April 15, 2010

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1152/10

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH ASSESSMENT AND MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (Madrid, June 28- July 3 2010)

I have the honor to inform you that the Mediterranean Swordfish Assessment and Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory meeting will be held from June 28 to July 3, 2010 at the Secretariat offices in Madrid.

Attached please find the objectives and Tentative Agenda of the meeting as well as other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P. D. 
Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

Commission Officers (English):

Commission Chairman: F. Hazin
SCRS: G. Scott
Compliance: C. Rogers
PWG: A. Share
STACFAD: S. Lapointe

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Korea	I.J. Jeong	USA	R. Lent
Libya	A. G. Abukhder	Vanuatu	R. Jimmy

Head Scientists (English)

Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities (English):

Chinese Taipei T.Y. Tsay, H.Y. Huang, D.R. Lin
Guyana D. Permaul, V. Joshi
Neth. Antilles S. Mambi

Attachments: Objectives, Tentative Agenda, Information for Participants.

2010 Mediterranean Swordfish Assessment and Mediterranean Albacore Data Preparatory Meeting

(Madrid, Spain, June 28- July 3, 2010)

Objectives

The Performance Review Panel recommended that more information be collected for Mediterranean albacore and that an assessment be conducted at the earliest possible date. Therefore a preparatory meeting is being held to conduct a thorough provision and revision of Task I and Task II data and to characterize the life-history parameters of albacore in the Mediterranean. In view of the available data, a choice of assessment method will also be made.

The Commission asked the SCRS to provide an updated assessment in 2010 of the state of the Mediterranean swordfish stock on the basis of updated data from 2009. It also asked the SCRS to assess the effects of the seasonal closure and provide advice on possible spatial temporal closures, as well as other possible technical measures, pertaining notably to rigging techniques, hook sizes and shapes, with a view to reducing by-catches of juvenile swordfish by pelagic longline fisheries. It also asked the SCRS to provide an assessment of fishing capacity and advise on a minimum catching size in order to achieve high yields compatible with the selectivity of the fishing gear.

The intention is to hold a two-day joint meeting (mainly for reviewing Task I and II data) and in subsequent days to hold specific species meetings.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements: SWO and ALB Sub-Groups
2. Description/evolution of fisheries-ALB
3. Update of basic information: SWO & ALB
 - 3.1 Task I (catches)
 - 3.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples)
4. Review of catch per unit effort series: SWO & ALB
5. Review of gear selectivity studies: SWO
6. Stock structure: ALB
 - 6.1. Review Tagging information
 - 6.2. Other related studies
7. Review of growth and age determination: SWO & ALB
8. Review of potential methods to be used in the assessment: SWO & ALB (potential 2011 assessment)
9. Stock status results (SWO)
10. Evaluation of Management scenarios: SWO
11. Recommendations: SWO & ALB
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

June 28 (Monday) to July 3 (Saturday), 2010. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, June 28). 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

Chairperson (ALB): Victoria Ortiz de Zárate (victoria.zarate@st.ieo.es)
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Chairperson (SWO-MED): George Tserpes (gtserpes@her.hcmr.gr)
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Secretariat Contact: Laurie Kell (laurie.kell@iccat.int)
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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. The titles, names of authors and abstracts of papers should be submitted to ICCAT (info@iccat.int) by **June 16, 2010**. Authors are requested to bring electronic versions of their papers and make them available at the start of the meeting. Authors are also encouraged to submit these electronic versions before the meeting in order to make them available on the Internet. 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_CoVol_ENG_2009.pdf). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

5. Provision of data

Parties should submit relevant information such as catch, size and index of abundance information through at least 2008, two weeks before the 2010 inter-sessional data preparatory meeting.

6. Funding

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national scientists from developing coastal States who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data (Items 2-5). Applications should be sent by **May 18, 2010**, to the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int), containing an explanation of the expected contribution to the meeting and how it relates to the meeting objectives. Successful applicants will be notified by **May 28, 2010**.

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.

Hôtel	Single use (€)
ABBA Madrid Hotel Avda. América, 32 28028 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 212 5000; Fax +34 91 212 5001 http://www.abbahoteles.com	100 (+7% TVA) Breakfast 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 http://www.ac-hotels.com/	110 (+7% TVA) Breakfast not included
Apartamentos Togumar C/ Canillas, 59 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel. + 34 91 519 00 51; Fax +34 91 519 48 45	60 (+7% TVA) Breakfast = €7
Silken Puerta de América Hotel Avda. América, 41 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 744 54 00; Fax +34 91 744 54 01 http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-puerta-america-madrid/	See Web site

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