



Madrid – May 11, 2010

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1604/10

SUBJECT: 2010 BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION (*Madrid, September 6 to 12, 2010*)

I have the honor to inform you that the Bluefin Assessment Session will be held on September 6 to 12, 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.



Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

Commission Officers (English):

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

Head Delegates (English):

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Barbados	S. Willoughby	Nigeria	F. F. Adeyemi
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China	X. Liu	Sierra Leone	M. B.D. Seisay
Croatia	N. Skakelja	South Africa	A. Share
EU	P. Amilhat	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	R. Ryan
Egypt	M. Osman	Syria	I. Krouma, E.M. Zein El Deen
Ghana	S. Quatey	Trinidad-Tobago	C. A. Ching
Iceland	B. Benediktsdóttir	Turkey	V. Kürüm
Japan	M. Miyahara	UK (OT)	S. Parnell
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 Bluefin Assessment Session
(Madrid, Spain, September 6 to 12, 2010)

Objectives

The last bluefin tuna stock assessment (East and West) was conducted in 2008 and the next has been scheduled by the Commission for 2010. The assessment session follows the data preparatory meeting held in June.

In the case of the East stock, it is also expected that the Bluefin Tuna Species Group investigates more deeply the effects on stock status of the management measures that were adopted in November 2008 in Marrakech.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements.
2. Review of the Rebuilding Plans for Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and previous SCRS advice
3. Summary of available data for assessment
 - 3.1 Biology
 - 3.2 Catch Estimates
 - 3.3 Relative Abundance Estimates
 - 3.4 Tagging
 - 3.5 Other Data
4. Methods and other data relevant to the assessment
 - 4.1 Methods – East
 - 4.2 Methods – West
 - 4.3 Methods – Mixing variants
 - 4.4 Methods – Regulatory analyses
 - 4.5 Methods for integration of management advice across multiple hypotheses
 - 4.6 Other methods
5. Stock status results
 - 5.1 Stock status – East
 - 5.2 Stock status – West
 - 5.3 Stock status – variants considering mixing
6. Evaluation of fishing capacity relative to the ICCAT Convention objectives
 - 6.1 East
 - 6.2 West
7. Projections
 - 7.1 Projections – East
 - 7.2 Projections – West
 - 7.3 Projections – Mixing variants
8. Recommendations
 - 8.1 Research and statistics – East
 - 8.2 Research and statistics – West
 - 8.3 Management – East, including advice on the odds of achieving the current Rebuilding Plan objectives without further adjustment
 - 8.4 Management – West, including advice on the odds of achieving the current Rebuilding Plan objectives without further adjustment
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

September 6 (Monday) to 12 (Sunday), 2010. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, September 6). 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

General-Chair: Dr. J. Powers (jepowers@lsu.edu)
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Tel: +1 225 578 7659; Fax: +1 225 578 6513

Co-Chair (East): Dr. Jean-Marc Fromentin (jean.marc.fromentin@ifremer.fr)
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Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 32, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95

Co-Chair (West): Dr. Clay Porch (clay.porch@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center
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Secretariat Contact: Dr. Laurie Kell (laurie.kell@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor
Madrid 28002, Spain.
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. The titles, names of authors and abstracts of papers should be submitted to ICCAT (info@iccat.int) by 1st September, 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_CoIVol_ENG_2009.pdf). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

5. Provision of data

- Providing 2009 Task I data for those countries that did not report this information (or want to present revisions to the data reported) at the time of the Data Preparatory meeting.
- Providing 2009 Task II data for those countries that did not report this information (or want to present revisions to the data reported) at the time of the Data Preparatory meeting.

Both, Task I and Task II data for 2009 shall be submitted by July 31, 2010.

- Providing complementary data on:
 - Mediterranean sport and recreational fisheries catch data, collected under provisions of:
 - [Rec. 04-12] *Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt measures concerning Sport and Recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea,*
 - [Rec. 08-05] *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.*
 - Bluefin tuna size samples taken during transport to and harvesting at farms (*Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming, [Rec. 06-07]*).
 - Bluefin tuna size samples taken during transfers into cages associated with carry over declarations from farms (*Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 08-12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program, [Rec. 09-11]*).

These complementary data (in particular the Monthly catch reports from [Rec. 08-05], that can be used to estimate preliminary 2010 Task I nominal catch figures) shall be submitted by August 22, 2010.

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 **July 20, 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 **July 27, 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>