



Madrid – February 1, 2010

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 248 / 10

SUBJECT: 2010 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS

I have the honor to inform you that the SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods will hold a meeting on April 21-23, 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
First Vice-Chairman: Z. Driouich
Second Vice-Chairman: P. N. Keita
SCRS: G. Scott
Compliance: C. Rogers
PWG: A. Share
STACFAD: S. Lapointe

Head Delegates (English):

Albania	R. Kristo	Namibia	M. Maurihungirire
Barbados	S. Willoughby	Nigeria	F. F. Adeyemi
Belize	B. Wade	Norway	S. Holst
Brazil	B. Paranhos Velloso	Philippines	G. A. Adora
Canada	F. Scattolon	Russia	K. G. Kukhorenko
China	X. Liu	Sierra Leone	M. B.D. Seisay
Croatia	N. Skakelj	South Africa	A. Share
EC	P. Amilhat	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	R. Ryan
Egypt	M. Osman	Syria	I. Krouma
Ghana	S. Quatey	Trinidad-Tobago	E. Mohammed
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

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

Attach: Meeting information.

**2010 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS**
(Madrid, Spain, April 21-23, 2010)

Objectives

The meeting is intended to address the following request from the 2009 meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT:

"Precautionary approach. The Working Group discussed soliciting advice from the SCRS on how the precautionary approach could be best expressed in the Convention. Some Parties noted the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement provided helpful language in this regard. The Working Group also noted that the incorporation of the precautionary approach into the Convention might involve looking at the Convention's objective itself."

In addition, the Group may address other methodological matters related to stock assessment quality control procedures.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements.
2. Issues related to the Precautionary Approach:
 - 2.1 Review of relevant documents, including:
 - The ICCAT Convention
 - Report of the 1999 ad hoc Working Group on the Precautionary Approach
 - 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement
 - 2.2 Consideration of stock assessment issues that SCRS should consider, including:
 - Harmonized estimation procedures (assessments, reference points, probability profiles, etc)
 - Guidelines for the application of the Kobe II Strategy Matrix
 - 2.3 Draft recommendations for the Commission:
 - For applying the Precautionary Approach
 - For potential changes to the Convention text
 - 2.4 Other issues
3. Other Methodological issues
4. Recommendations
5. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

April 21 (Wednesday) to 23 (Friday), 2010. (Registration starts at 08:30 am, April 21). 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/en/Madrid.htm>

2. Contact information

Chairperson and Secretariat contact: Victor Restrepo (victor.restrepo@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 **April 7, 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. 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	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% tax) Including breakfast
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% tax) Breakfast separate
Apartments Togumar C/ Canillas, 59 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel. + 34 91 519 0051; Fax +34 91 519 4845	60 (+7% tax) Breakfast = 7
Hotel Silken Puerta de América 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/	Days 21,22 and 26 169 (+7% tax) Breakfast separate