



Madrid – March 11, 2010

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 681 / 10

SUBJECT: 2010 BLUE MARLIN DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (Madrid, May 17 to 21, 2010)

I have the honor to inform you that the Blue Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting will be held on May 17 to 21, 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

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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 Blue Marlin Data Preparatory Meeting *(Madrid, Spain, May 17 to 21, 2010)*

Objectives

The SCRS decided in its 2009 annual meeting to conduct the assessment of blue and white marlin through a three stage process. This meeting represents the first step of the process which objectives will be to produce catch estimates of blue marlin, especially those for artisanal fleets that are known to land billfish but do not report them to ICCAT like many of the FAD fleets from the Caribbean; develop methods and data analyses that can facilitate the interpretation of historical longline CPUE indices; and review methods for accounting of under-reporting in the fleets that have been required to release marlins. It is also expected for this meeting, updates for blue marlin relative abundance indices, as well as updates on biological parameters and habitat information. Potential assessment methods and its data requirements should be examined during the meeting.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Update of basic information
 - 2.1 Task I (catches)
 - 2.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples)
3. Review of new Biological, Habitat, Tagging data for BUM
4. Review of BUM catch estimates (historical and current)
5. Review of BUM catch rate information
6. Review of simulation work conducted to date
7. Review of potential methods to be used in the assessment
8. Recommendations
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

May 17 (Monday) to 21 (Friday), 2010. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, May 17). 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: Freddy Arocha (farochap@gmail.com)
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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 **May 5, 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_ColVol_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 **March 25, 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 April 5.

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>