



Madrid – 13 February 2017

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0857/17

**SUBJECT: 2017 MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT
METHODS (Madrid, Spain - 8 to 12 May 2017)**

I have the honor to inform you that the meeting of the *ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods* will be held on 8 to 12 May 2017, in Madrid, Spain.

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 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).

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 **24 April 2017**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.


Driss Meski
Executive Secretary



DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman :	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair	F. Donatella
Second Vice Chair:	R. Delgado	STACFAD Chair	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		
- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.

2017 MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS
(Madrid, Spain - 8 to 12 May 2017)

Objectives

In 2016 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2017 which included an intersessional meeting to continue its work on the LLSIM simulation study on developing best practices for CPUE standardization. The Group will also continue its efforts to develop a template for the task of the unifying CPUE data towards the development of spatially explicit indices of abundance, while also working on how best to bring spatially changing oceanographic, environmental conditions and climate change into the assessment process. In accordance with the Commission's requests, progress will be made on MSE, Harvest Control Rules, Limit, Threshold and Target Reference points. The Group will continue to discuss and attempt to solidify and formalize a generalized framework from which to conduct future MSEs. It has also been recognized that there is an increasing trend in the use of multiple assessment models by the various Species Groups and further recognizes that this practice is often resulting in a wider range of possible management advice and options. This can have the result of making the overall communication of the advice less clear and consequently less effective. Papers, discussion and debate on how to best maintain the uncertainty captured via the multiple model approach while still making the communication of this practice clear and effective will be conducted.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
 - Assignment of Rapporteurs
2. CPUE standardization / incorporation of oceanographic and environmental changes into the assessment process
 - Presentation of proceedings of the BFT CPUE workshop held in Mexico City
 - Presentation of CPUE standardization of LLSIM (simulated) data
 - Discussion of results
 - Identify best practices so far for inclusion into an ongoing document
 - Data that the Group is aware of for building habitat model for SWO and other species (i.e. PSAT)
3. Harvest Control Rules, Limit Reference points and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - Current status and progress
 - Review of the recent decision on ALB Harvest Control Rule
 - How can we help prepare for the Working Group Dialogue between Scientists and Managers?
 - Determination of what work should be accomplished in 2017 to continue progress
4. Peer review of stock assessments, revision of the list of experts
5. Other matters
6. Recommendations
7. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

The meeting will take place from 8 (Monday) to 12 May (Friday), 2017. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 8 May). 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

Chair: Michael Schirripa (michael.schirripa@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149, United States
Tel: +1 305 361 4568, Fax: +1 305 361 4562

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
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. 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 or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **1 May 2017**. 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. 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. **24 March 2017**. 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.

6. Hotel information

Please note that the prices below are approximate and may vary. The Secretariat does not have fixed prices agreements with the hotels below unless specifically indicated. All delegates should make their own reservations directly with the hotel.

Notes: 1= Hotels near the Secretariat

HOTEL SILKEN PUERTA DE AMÉRICA 5*¹ 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/	Single room (incl. breakfast): 115€ (VAT incl.) Double room (incl. breakfast): 130€ (VAT incl.) Only for 1 st quarter meetings
APARTAMENTOS TOGUMAR¹ C/ Canillas, 59 28002 Madrid, Spain Tel. + 34 91 519 00 51; Fax +34 91 519 48 45	Double room (incl. breakfast): 75€ Double room (room only): 66€ Single room (incl. breakfast): 62€ Single room (room only): 57€ (10% VAT included)
HOTEL ABBA 4*¹ Avda. América, 32 28028 Madrid, Spain Tel +34 91 212 5000; Fax +34 91 212 5001 http://www.abbahoteles.com	Double room single use: 90€ - 130€ (10 % VAT included) * Special offer: While booking, if you add the ICCAT code, you will get a 10% discount.
HOTEL AC AVD DE AMÉRICA 3*¹ 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/	Double room single use (incl. breakfast): 100€ Double room (incl. breakfast): 110€ (10% VAT non-inclusive) Unavailable dates: 08-12 May 12-16 June 04-08 September 11-12 September
APARTAMENTOS GOYA c/ General Pardiñas, 13 Madrid 28001, Spain Tel: +34 91 781 8930 Fax: +34 91 575 6867 info@apartamentosgoya75.com	Apartment 1-2 Pax Accommodation only 60€ (10 % VAT included)
HOTEL II CASTILLAS 3*¹ c/ Abada, 7 Madrid 28013, Spain Tel: +34 91 524 9750 Fax: +34 91 524 9751 http://www.hoteldoscastillas.com	April-May-October-November Single room (incl. breakfast): 106,70€ Double room (incl. breakfast): 125,40€ Rest of the Year Single room (incl. breakfast): 88€ Double room (incl. breakfast): 103,40€ (10 % VAT included)

HOTEL NH BALBOA 3* c/ Núñez de Balboa, 112 Madrid 28006, España Tel: +34 91 563 0324 Fax: +34 91 562 6980 E-mail: nhbalboa@nh-hotels.com	Double room single use (incl. breakfast): 110-139€ 26-30 June: 169€ 11 September: 249€ (10 % VAT included)
HOTEL NH PRÍNCIPE DE VERGARA 4* Príncipe de Vergara, 92. 28006 Madrid (Spain) Tel. +34 91 563 2695; Fax: +34 91 563 7253 E-mail: nhprincipedevergara@nh-hotels.com	Double room single use (incl. breakfast): 118€ (10 % VAT non-inclusive) Prices still to be determined: 12-16 June 26-30 June 02-06 October 11-12 September
HOTEL REGENTE 3* c/ Mesonero Romanos 9, on the corner of Gran Vía, Madrid 28013, Spain Tel: +34 91 521 2941 Fax: +34 91 532 3014 http://www.hotelregente.com	Double room (incl. breakfast): 83€ Double room (room only): 78€ Single room (incl. breakfast): 77€ Single room (room only): 72€ (10% VAT included)

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