



Madrid – 12 February 2018

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0736/18

**SUBJECT: 2018 MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS  
(MADRID, SPAIN - 7 TO 11 MAY 2018)**

I have the honor to inform you that the meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods will be held on 7 to 11 May 2018, 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 could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on our web site.

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 **23 April 2018**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A Elekon
SCRS Chair:	D. Die		
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attachment:** Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

**2018 MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS**  
*(Madrid, Spain - 7 to 11 May 2018)*

**Objectives**

In 2017 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2018 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 to work on how best to bring spatially changing oceanographic, environmental conditions and climate change into the assessment process. An ongoing issue for the working group has been the discussions regarding the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Process. The Group aims to continue these discussions as well as address Harvest Control Rules, Limit, Threshold and Target Reference points. The Group also encourages 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.

**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 CPUE standardization of LLSIM (simulated) data and resulting recommendations
  - Discussion of recommendations
  - Identify best practices so far for inclusion into an ongoing document
  - Data that the Group are aware of for building habitat model for SWO and other species (i.e. PSAT)
  - Design of a factorial study
3. Harvest Control Rules, Limit Reference points and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
  - Report from the NALB Study Group on current status and progress of NALB MSE
  - Review of the recent decision on ALB Harvest Control Rule: lessons learned
  - HCR “exceptional circumstances”, what they are and what to do if they occur (Rec. 17-04)
  - How can we help prepare for the Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers?
  - Determination of what work should be accomplished in 2018 to continue progress
4. Data Limited Methods of stock assessment
5. Recommendations
6. Other matters
  - Quality control of landings data and possible ways forward
7. Adoption of the report and closure

## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will take place from 7 (Monday) to 11 (Friday) May 2018. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 7 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 [here](#).

### 2. Contact information

Chair: Michael Schirripa ([michael.schirripa@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.schirripa@noaa.gov))  
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor  
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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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **30 April 2018**. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#). 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. **23 March 2018**. 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 on the ICCAT web site ([here](#)). 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**

A list of recommended hotels is available on the [ICCAT website](#).