



Madrid – 13 March 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1477/18

**SUBJECT: 2018 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS
(MADRID, SPAIN, 4-8 JUNE, 2018)**

I have the honor to inform you that the Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems will be held on 4 to 8 June 2018, at the ICCAT Secretariat, 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 (www.iccat.int or <http://new.iccat.int/en/>).

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 **21 May 2018**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary



DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
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- **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Objectives, tentative agenda and information for participants.

2018 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS

(Madrid, Spain, 4-8 June, 2018)

Objectives

Pertaining to ecosystems

In conjunction with the proposal to develop an Ecosystem report card for ICCAT, the Sub-committee will review progress on the inter-sessional exercise to assess the status of the 10 ecosystem components that were identified. The indicators described in the assessments are to form the basis for a prototype report card that will be presented to the Commission in 2018. As in 2017, the Sub-committee aims to continue the work required to assess the feasibility of and provide information towards implementing ecosystems based fisheries management (EBFM) in agreement with Resolution 15-11. Furthermore, it will examine the available information on the trophic ecology of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area as per Resolution 16-23.

Pertaining to by-catch

Recognising that the paucity of seabird by-catch data submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat has prevented an assessment of Rec. 11-09, the Sub-committee noted that there are opportunities to progress this work intersessionally through additional mechanisms. The collaborative work being conducted by relevant CPCs will be presented and the plan will be elaborated to take these collaborations further. There is also a paucity of by-catch data submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on sea turtles despite repeated requests for this information, the Sub-committee recognizes that a collaborative effort similar to that being proposed for seabirds be initiated. The Sub-committee aims to discuss progress towards scientific collaboration among researchers of ICCAT CPCs to elaborate on the results obtained to date regarding knowledge of the impact of the fisheries on sea turtles.

In 2017 the Sub-committee recognized that several species of teleost fish are also caught as by-catch in ICCAT fisheries. To date these species have generally been neglected as the Sub-committee has focused on non-teleost by-catch. The Sub-committee intends to discuss and bring attention to these species which are often caught in significant quantities.

Tentative Agenda

- 1 Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
Ecosystems
- 2 Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management
 - 2.1 Review progress on developing new indicators for all ecological components of ICCAT's EBFM framework (i.e. target species, by-catch, habitat and trophic relationships)
 - 2.2 Feedback on Concept Note to inform rapporteurs of Species Groups regarding the development of an ecosystem report card, along with the justification and implementation plan
 - 2.3 Feedback on the introduction of the Report Card and progress on an EBFM plan presented to managers at the 2018 Meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers
 - 2.4 Review the progress on the assessment of components of the Ecosystem Report Card for ICCAT and develop a preliminary draft*By-catch*
- 3 Data used for by-catch analyses
 - 3.1 Update of ST09 forms
- 4 Sea birds
 - 4.1 Feedback on collaborative process of assessing the impact of longline fisheries on by-catch of seabirds
 - 4.1.1 Review of progress on seabird interaction estimations and mitigation
 - 4.1.2 Progress on assessing effectiveness of Rec. 11-09
- 5 Sea turtles
 - 5.1 Discuss progress towards scientific collaboration among researchers of ICCAT CPCs to elaborate on the results obtained to date regarding knowledge of the impact of the fisheries on sea turtles
- 6 Mitigation measures for by-catch and mortality in fisheries: intra and interspecific effects of the measures
- 7 Fish species caught as by-catch but not considered by other species groups
- 8 Other matters
 - 8.1 Integration of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems with other Species Working Groups
 - 8.2 Elaboration of Terms of Reference for a proposed Call for tenders to develop "An Inventory of Best Available Science on By-catch Mitigation Measures across Taxa"
- 9 Recommendations
 - 9.1 General recommendations
 - 9.2 Recommendations with financial implications
- 10 Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1 Date and venue

The meeting will take place from 4 (Monday) to 8 June (Friday), 2018. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 4 June). 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

Conveners

EBFM: Dr Alex Hanke (alex.hanke@dfo.mpo.gc.ca)

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By-catch: Andrés Domingo (adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; dimanchester@gmail.com)

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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. 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 **28 May 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. **20 April 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 in the ICCAT web site (<http://www.iccat.int/en/meetingsFunds.htm> or <http://new.iccat.int/en/meetingsFunds.html>). 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 here on the ICCAT website (<http://iccat.int/en/meetingscurrent.htm> or <http://new.iccat.int/en/Meetings.html>).