



Madrid, 1 June 2018

2018 MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
(Madrid, Spain, 1-5 October 2018)

On behalf of the Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I have the honor to inform you that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) will hold its 2018 meeting in Madrid, Spain, at the Hotel Weare Chamartin, from 1-5 October 2018. In order to carry out the preparatory work, the Sub-Committee on Statistics and the Species Groups will meet during the preceding week at the ICCAT Secretariat.

The Tentative Agendas for the SCRS, the Sub-committee on Statistics and the Species Groups meetings as well as other relevant information are attached herewith.

Please note that our mailing distribution list is limited. Therefore, I should like to ask that you circulate this announcement among potential delegates. This announcement will also be placed on our [web site](#). Documents for general distribution which become available before the meeting will also be placed on the [web site](#).

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national scientists from developing coastal States that are Contracting Parties and that can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives. According to 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 (9 August for the Species Groups and the Sub-Committee on Statistics and 17 August for the SCRS)** (info@iccat.int). Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date. All the information related to the [ICCAT special funds](#) for participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building is available on the ICCAT web site. 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.

Please inform the Secretariat, as soon as possible, of the names and positions of those persons who will represent your delegation. To facilitate the registration process, an electronic Pre-Registration form is available on our [web site](#).

Please accept 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**

Attachments:

Tentative Agendas and Schedules for the SCRS, the Sub-Committee on Statistics and the Species Groups meetings
Call for Scientific Papers

TENTATIVE TIMETABLES

2018 SPECIES GROUP MEETINGS

(ICCAT Secretariat, Madrid; September 24-28, 2018; 09:00-18:00 hours)

Species Groups	MON 24		TUE 25		WED 26		THU 27		FRI 28	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
SC-STATS										
BFT										
TRO										
SWO										
BIL										
ALB										
SCRS Officers meeting										

2018 STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)

(Hotel Weare Chamartin - Madrid, October 1-5, 2018; 09:00-18:00 hours)

Items	MON 1		TUE 2		WED 3		THU 4		FRI 5	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1-7.										
8. Exec. Summaries										
9. Report of intersessional meetings										
10. Programmes: GBYP and AOTTP										
11. SC STATS										
12. SC ECO										
13 to 14. Implications of SWGSM and Panel 1 meeting										
15 to 16. MSE – Strategic Plan										
17 to 19. Work plans – Recommendations – Responses										
20 to 22. Other matters, Election New Chair, Adoption										

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)
(Hotel Weare Chamartin - Madrid, 1-5 October 2018)

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements for the meeting
3. Introduction of Contracting Party delegations*
4. Introduction and admission of observers*
5. Admission of scientific documents
6. Report of Secretariat activities in research and statistics
7. Review of national fisheries and research programmes**
8. Executive Summaries on species:
YFT-Yellowfin, BET-Bigeye, SKJ-Skipjack, ALB-Albacore, BFT-Bluefin, BUM-Blue marlin, WHM-White marlin, SAI-Sailfish, SWO-Atl. Swordfish, SWO-Med. Swordfish, SMT-Small tunas, SHK-Sharks
9. Report of inter-sessional SCRS meetings
 - 9.1 Small tuna Species Group intersessional meeting
 - 9.2 Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods
 - 9.3 Sharks Species Group intersessional meeting
 - 9.4 Blue marlin data preparatory and stock assessment meetings
 - 9.5 Bigeye data preparatory and stock assessment meetings
 - 9.6 MSE Bluefin tuna intersessional meeting
 - 9.7 MSE Northern swordfish intersessional meeting
10. Report of Research Programs
 - 10.1 Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP)
 - 10.2 Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)
11. Report of the Sub-committee on Statistics
12. Report of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems and By-catch
13. Considerations of implications of the Meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers
14. Considerations of implications of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1
15. Progress related to work developed on MSE
 - 15.1 t-RFMO MSE Working Group
 - 15.2 Work conducted for bluefin tuna
 - 15.3 Work conducted for northern albacore
 - 15.4 Work conducted for northern swordfish
 - 15.5 Work conducted for tropical tunas
16. Report on the implementation of the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 in 2018 and work plan for 2019, which includes the update of the stock assessment software catalogue
17. Consideration of plans for future activities
 - 17.1 Annual Work Plans and research programmes
 - 17.2 Intersessional meetings proposed for 2019

- 17.3 Date and place of the next meeting of the SCRS
- 18. General recommendations to the Commission
 - 18.1 General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications
 - 18.2 Other recommendations
- 19. Responses to Commission's requests***
 - 19.1 Ghana's comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan on the level of catches. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 12c
 - 19.2 Evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 in relation with the protection of tropical tuna juveniles. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 15
 - 19.3 Recommendations made by the FAD Working Group (Annex 8) and develop a work plan. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 (a)
 - 19.4 Develop a table that quantifies the expected impact on MSY, BMSY, and relative stock status for both bigeye and yellowfin resulting from reductions of the individual proportional contributions of major fisheries to the total catch. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 (c)
 - 19.5 Provide with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to Rec. 16-14 and any relevant associated findings. Recommend on how to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs, including possible revisions to Rec. 16-14 and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards and protocols by CPCs. Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12 *c* and *d*
 - 19.6 The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of the minimum size/weight measure on the mortality of immature swordfish. Rec. 17-02 paragraph 10 (N-SWO) and Rec. 17-03 paragraph 7 (S-SWO)
- 20. Other matters
 - 20.1 Analysis of recommendations emanating from the Performance Review Panel and possible necessary actions
 - 20.2 Collaboration with other International Organizations (ICES, CITES, GEF, etc.)
 - 20.3 Consideration of implications of the sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment
 - 20.4 Update of the ICCAT glossary
 - 20.5 Consideration of new publication guidelines: executive summaries, detailed reports and SCRS report
 - 20.6 Peer review publication (SCRS documents): agreement with Aquatic Living Resources journal
- 21. Election of the Chair
- 22. Adoption of report and closure

* The Executive Secretary will list the Contracting Parties and Observer Delegations present. Any statements should be presented in writing only.

** The text to be included in the SCRS report should be very short and presented in writing on or before September 24, 09:00 a.m. (Madrid time). Oral presentations, if any, should be brief and focus on aspects that are not covered elsewhere by the individual species groups.

*** Responses derived from the results of 2018 stock assessments for Atlantic blue marlin and bigeye tuna are included in Agenda Item 8.

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

(ICCAT Secretariat, 24-25 September 2018)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fisheries and biological data submitted during 2018
 - 2.1 Task I (T1FC and T2NC) and Task II (T2CE and T2SZ) statistics
 - 2.2 Tagging
 - 2.3 Complementary data obtained within ICCAT data collection and research programmes (GBYP, AOTTP, EPBR, SMTYP and SRDCP)
 - 2.4 Other relevant statistics (observer data, VMS, BCDs, ISSF, etc.)
3. Review of Secretariat's standard (yearly based) datasets estimations
 - 3.1 CATDIS and EFFDIS
 - 3.2 CAS (catch-at-size) and CAA (catch-at-age)
4. Evaluation of data deficiencies pursuant to Rec. 05-09
 - 4.1 Report cards for 2017 with SCRS validation criteria (filters 1 and 2)
 - 4.2 Standard catalogues of major ICCAT species (last 30 years)
 - 4.3 Report on data recovery activities, new plans, and improvements on national data collections systems
5. Review of existing practices for data submission and validation by the Secretariat
 - 5.1 Proposals for improving ICCAT eFORMS (structures, formats, codes, deadlines, etc.)
 - 5.2 Progress on the work to develop an ICCAT online reporting system
6. Progress on the work developed by the ICCAT Online Reporting Technology Working Group
7. Review of the ICCAT relational database system (ICCAT-DB)
 - 7.1 Improvements, ongoing work, and documentation work (technical manuals, Java docs, user guides, etc.)
 - 7.2 Plans to publish some ICCAT-DB data in the ICCAT cloud infrastructure
8. International and inter-agency cooperation on statistical activities (FAO, CWP, FIRMS, CLAV)
9. Review of the Report of the short-term contract: *Comprehensive study of strategic investments related to artisanal fisheries data collection in ICCAT fisheries of the Caribbean/Central American region*
10. Considerations on the Sub-committee on Statistics recommendations (past and 2018)
 - 10.1 Progress with prior year Recommendations of the Sub-Committee
 - 10.2 Review of Recommendations from 2018 inter-sessional meetings
11. Response to the Commission related to Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12, *c* and *d*
12. Other matters
13. Future plans and recommendations
14. Adoption of the report and closure

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF BLUEFIN SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 25-28 September 2018)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review the work conducted under the GBYP
3. Review of documents of updated indices for bluefin tuna
4. Update on the ongoing bluefin tuna MSE process
5. Review of new scientific documents for bluefin tuna
6. Update of the bluefin tuna Executive Summaries
7. Workplan and recommendations for 2019
8. Other matters

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 25-28 September 2018)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for tropical tuna
3. Update on the ongoing tropical tuna MSE process
4. Review the work conducted under the AOTTP
5. Responses to the Commission regarding:
 - 5.1 Rec. 16-01, paragraph 12 c
 - 5.2 Rec. 16-01, paragraph 15
 - 5.3 Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 a
 - 5.4 Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 c
6. Update of the tropical tuna Executive Summaries
7. Workplan and recommendations for 2019
8. Other matters

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 26-27 September 2018)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for swordfish (particularly pertaining to studies in the SWO workplan)
3. Update on the ongoing northern swordfish MSE process
4. Responses to the Commission regarding Rec. 17- 02 (para 10) and Rec. 17-03 (para 7)
5. Update of the Executive Summaries for North and South Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish
6. Workplan (including extending the ongoing studies/activities on biology, tagging and MSE) for 2019
7. Recommendations
8. Other matters

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP

(ICCAT Secretariat, 26 September 2017)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for albacore (including ongoing studies)
3. Update on the northern albacore HCR and the MSE process
4. Update of the Executive Summaries for albacore
5. Workplan (including extending the ongoing studies/activities) and recommendations for 2019
6. Other matters

2018 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF BILLFISH SPECIES GROUP

(ICCAT Secretariat, 27 September 2018)

1. Review of Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for billfishes other than blue marlin (including ongoing studies)
3. Response to the Commission regarding Rec. 15-05, paragraph 10 and Rec. 16-11, paragraph 3
4. Update of the Executive Summaries for sailfish, white marlin and blue marlin
5. Workplan (including extending the ongoing studies/activities under the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research) and recommendations for 2019
6. Other matters

2018 MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
(Madrid, Spain, 1-5 October 2018)

CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

Participants in the Species Groups and/or the SCRS meetings 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 **14 September 2018**. Authors are requested to bring electronic versions of their papers. The electronic versions of the documents and presentations, if any, shall be submitted at least **one week** before the beginning of the corresponding meeting so that Rapporteurs can plan the sessions, and to give the Secretariat time to organize the work and to make information available to participants in advance of the meeting. Documents submitted after the deadline i.e. one week in advance of the meeting could be deferred to next year for discussion. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors](#) of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume series. Documents can be presented in PDF format, although the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in MS Word or compatible software.