



Madrid – 26 April 2017

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2788/17

SUBJECT: 2017 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT (Madrid, Spain – 3 to 7 July 2017)

I have the honor to inform you that the Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment session will be held between 3-7 July 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](#).

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 June 2017**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.




Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

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Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.

2017 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING
(Madrid, Spain - 3 to 7 July 2017)

Objectives

In 2016 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2017 which included a stock assessment meeting to assess the stock status of the North and South Atlantic swordfish.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of available data submitted by the assessment data deadline (30 April 2017)
 - 2.1 Catches
 - 2.2 Indices of abundance
 - 2.3 Biology
 - 2.4 Length compositions
 - 2.5 Other relevant data
3. Catch data, including catch at size and fisheries trends
4. Relative abundance indices: overview of indexes to be used - provided by the CPUE index and data deadline (30 April 2017)
 - 4.1 Relative abundance indices – North
 - 4.2 Relative abundance indices – South
5. Methods and other data relevant to the assessment
 - 5.1 Methods – North
 - 5.2 Methods – South
6. Stock status results
 - 6.1 Stock status – North
 - 6.2 Stock status – South
7. Projections
 - 7.1 Projections – North
 - 7.2 Projections – South
8. Limit reference points
9. Recommendations
 - 9.1 Research and Statistics
 - 9.2 Management
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held from 3 (Monday) to 7 (Friday) July 2017. (Registration starts at 08:30 am, 3 July). 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 [click here](#).

2. Contact information

Chair: Rui Coelho (rccoelho@ipma.pt)

Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA)
Division of Modelling and Management of Fishery Resources
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@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. 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 **25 June 2017**. 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. Provision of data

At the 2017 Swordfish Data Preparatory meeting, the Group requested the following (**to be made available by 30 April 2017**):

- *CPUEs from individual CPCs*: Updates and corrections of CPUE series from Individual CPCs (North Atlantic - Canada and Japan to provide updates based on Working Group comments; EU-Spain to present updated CPUE series with a supporting document; South Atlantic - Japan to provide updated series based on Working Group comments; EU-Spain to present an updated CPUE series with

- supporting document).
- *Data for combined North Atlantic CPUE*: Scientific collaboration based on raw data for combined CPUE update (submit to miguel.santos@iccat.int and/or mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int (full confidentiality of data will be maintained).

6. 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. **19 May 2017**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the [ICCAT Special Funds for Participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building](#) is available in 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.