



Madrid – 6 July 2017

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4786 / 17

**SUBJECT: 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs  
(11-12 September 2017, Madrid, Spain)**

I have the honor to inform you that the *3rd Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on FADs* will be held on 11-12 September 2017, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you would distribute this announcement to anyone who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on our web site. The Tentative Agenda of the meeting will be posted on the ICCAT meeting webpage soon.

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 **25 August 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 Vice 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 and Information for participants.

**3<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs**  
**(Madrid, Spain – 11-12 September 2017)**

**Objectives**

In 2014 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an ad hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [Rec. 14-03], which was revised in 2015 [Rec. 15-02]. The latter Recommendation was revised in 2016 [Rec. 16-02], which repealed and replaced [Rec. 15-02].

An *ad hoc* Working Group was established with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) Consider ways to reduce juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in FADs fishing;
- b) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, including by estimating the past and current number of and different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, including to quantify the effort associated with this type of fishery;
- c) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- d) Based on the best available information, examine:
  - i. the fishing capacity for all components of ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, including the relative contribution of FAD fishing to overall fishing mortality by age or size category;
  - ii. assessed and projected changes, in bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack Biomass and MSY estimates, associated to different selectivity patterns and juveniles fishing mortality levels.
- e) Assess the developments in FAD-related technology, including with regard to:
  - Technological improvement in relation to fishing mortality.
  - FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs.
  - Reducing FADs' ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.
- f) Identify management options and common standards for FAD management, including the regulation of: 1) FAD sets; 2) deployment limits of FADs and buoys (by distinguishing total number of deployed buoys and the number of active ones); 3) characteristics of FADs, such as marking; 4) activities of purse seiners, baitboats and support vessels, in particular the link established in fishing operations between support vessels and individual fishing vessels, and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic ecosystems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.
- g) Identify and assess options for and timing of recovery of FADs and/or mitigating FAD losses in order to ensure a proper management of their potential impact on different coastal and high-sea components of the marine environment.
- h) Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2016 and thereafter as appropriate.

The structure of the meeting will include an open forum/dialogue among scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through sessions of the *ad hoc* Working Group, which should ensure a balanced presence and active participation of scientists and managers.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Date and venue

September 11 (Monday) to 12 (Tuesday) 2017. (Registration starts at 08:30 am, 11 September). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat, Madrid, Spain. A list of hotels is available on the ICCAT meetings webpage.

### 2. Contact information

Co-Chair (Panel 1 Chair): Helguilè Shep (shelguile@yahoo.fr)  
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Co-Chair (SCRS Chair): David Die (ddie@rsmas.miami.edu)  
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Tel: +1 305 421 4607, Fax: +1 305 421 4221

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.neves@iccat.int )  
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### 3. Language

Simultaneous translation in the three official ICCAT languages will be provided.

### 4. Call for scientific papers and other documents for the meeting

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French. Following the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#) which authors should closely follow, documents must include a short summary which will be translated by the Secretariat into the ICCAT official languages. The same criteria will be followed with other documents submitted to the meeting.

In order to better organize the meeting, authors are invited to submit to ICCAT (info@iccat.int or miguel.neves@iccat.int) electronic versions of their papers by **1 September 2017** (before 14:30 hours, Madrid time). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software. If papers are submitted after this above mentioned deadline, only an extended abstract will be translated (max. 1 page long). The latter should be submitted no later than **5 September 2017** (before 16:30 hours, Madrid time).

### 5. Funding

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a delegate from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives.

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.* **28 July 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](#) . 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.