

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)
(Hotel Weare Chamartin - Madrid, October 2-6, 2017)

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 programs**
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 Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods
 - 9.2 Small tuna Species Group intersessional meeting
 - 9.3 Tropical Tuna Species Group intersessional meeting
 - 9.4 Albacore Species Group intersessional meeting (including stock assessment of Mediterranean albacore)
 - 9.5 Shortfin mako shark data preparatory and assessment meetings
 - 9.6 Atlantic swordfish data preparatory and assessment meetings
 - 9.7 Bluefin data preparatory and stock assessment meetings
10. Report of Special Data Collection and Research Programs
 - 10.1 Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)
 - 10.2 Enhanced Billfish Research Programme (EBRP)
 - 10.3 Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)
 - 10.4 Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
 - 10.5 Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)
11. Report of the Sub-committee on Statistics
12. Report of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems
13. Considerations of implications of the Meeting of the Joint t-RFMO FAD Working Group
14. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs
15. Considerations of implications of the Meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers
16. Progress related to work developed by the t-RFMO MSE Working Group
17. Report on the implementation of the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 in 2017 and work plan for 2018, which includes the update of the stock assessment software catalogue

18. Consideration of plans for future activities
 - 18.1 Annual Work Plans
 - 18.2 Inter-sessional meetings proposed for 2018
 - 18.3 Date and place of the next meeting of the SCRS
19. General recommendations to the Commission
 - 19.1 General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications
 - 19.2 Other recommendations
20. Responses to Commission's requests***
 - 20.1 Ghana's comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan on the level of catches. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 12c
 - 20.2 Evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 in relation with the protection of juveniles of tropical tunas. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 15
 - 20.3 Review its 2016 recommendations on observer coverage and advise the Commission on appropriate coverage levels. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 42
 - 20.4 Recommendations made by the FAD Working Group (Annex 8) and develop a work plan. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 (a)
 - 20.5 Provide performance indicators for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna, with the perspective to develop management strategy evaluations for tropical tunas. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 49 (b)
 - 20.6 Develop a table that quantifies the expected impact on MSY, B_{MSY} , 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)
 - 20.7 Evaluate the contribution of by-catches and discards to the overall catches in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, on a fishery by fishery basis. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 53
 - 20.8 Advise the Commission on possible measures allowing to reduce discards and to mitigate onboard post-harvest losses and by-catch in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries. Rec. 16-01, paragraph 53
 - 20.9 Provide information and guidance on enhancing efforts to address any deficiencies identified regarding fisheries for which biological sampling rates that should be increased and fisheries for which improvements in the collection and/or provision of statistical data are necessary to support the stock assessment. SCRS to report efforts made to enhance biological sampling activities. Rec. 16-08, paragraph 20
 - 20.10 The SCRS shall review new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, and advise the Commission on the results for its consideration. Rec. 16-08, paragraph 23
 - 20.11 Provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. To comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status. Rec. 16-08, paragraph 27
 - 20.12 Mauritania**** will conduct research activities in cooperation with an ICCAT CPC of its choice, and will be subject to the presentation of a specific programme to the SCRS. The result will be made available to the Commission. Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5
 - 20.13 Provide the Commission with the confirmed average round weight and gilled and gutted weight, corresponding to the LJFL of 100 cm. Rec. 16-05, paragraph 16
 - 20.14 Continue to monitor and analyze the effects of the minimum size measure on the mortality of immature swordfish. Recs. 16-03, paragraph 10 and 16-04, paragraph 7
 - 20.15 Develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues. Rec. 15-05, paragraph 10 and Rec. 16-11, paragraph 3

- 20.16 Refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g. $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$, SSB_{LIM} and F_{TARGET}) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 2 of Rec. 16-06. The SCRS shall also provide statistics to support decision-making in accordance with the performance indicators in Annex 2. Rec. 16-06, paragraph 11
- 20.17 The HCRs referred to in paragraph 13 of Rec. 16-06 should be evaluated by the SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. Rec. 16-06, paragraph 14
- 20.18 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
- 20.19 Review Rec. 14-09 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness. Rec. 14-09, paragraph 1
- 20.20 Confirmation by the Shark Species Group regarding exemption of the necessity for data submission by CPCs. Rec. 16-13, paragraph 2
- 20.21 Develop rules of procedure, including a code of conduct for scientists and observers. Rec. 13-12, paragraph 1
21. Other matters
- 21.1 Collaboration with other International Organizations (ICES, CITES, GEF, etc.)
- 21.2 Consideration of implications of the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Follow up on the Second Performance Review
- 21.3 Update of the ICCAT glossary
- 21.4 Consideration of new publication guidelines: executive summaries, detailed reports and SCRS report
- 21.5 Peer review publication (SCRS documents): agreement with Aquatic Living Resources journal
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 26, 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 2017 stock assessments for Mediterranean albacore, North and South Atlantic shortfin mako shark, North and South Atlantic swordfish, Western and East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks are included in Agenda Item 8.
- **** Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017, Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5.

2017 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS
(ICCAT Secretariat, 25-26 September 2017)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fisheries and biological data submitted during 2017
 - 2.1 Basic 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 2016 report cards applying SCRS validation criteria (filters 1 and 2)
 - 4.2 Standard catalogues of major ICCAT species (1990-2016)
 - 4.3 Report on data recovery activities, new plans, and improvements on national data collections systems
 - 4.4 Potential methods to evaluate and measure (scores) the quality of data
5. Review of existing practices for data submission and validation
 - 5.1 Formats (eFORMS), codes, and deadlines
 - 5.2 Procedures to revise/approve statistics
 - 5.3 Tools supporting data submission (tutorials, instructions, videos, etc.)
 - 5.4 Ongoing work on the ICCAT online reporting system (three initiatives)
6. Review of the ICCAT relational database system (ICCAT-DB)
 - 6.1 Improvements, ongoing work, and work plan
 - 6.2 Ongoing documentation work (technical manuals, Java docs, user guides, etc.)
 - 6.3 Plans to publish some ICCAT-DB data in the ICCAT cloud infrastructure
7. International and inter-agency cooperation on statistical activities (FAO, CWP, FIRMS, CLAV)
8. Review of progress on the implementation of the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020
9. Discussion of proposed data dissemination rules
10. Considerations on the Sub-committee on Statistics recommendations (past and 2017)
 - 10.1 Progress with prior year Recommendations of the Sub-Committee
 - 10.2 Review of Recommendations from 2017 inter-sessional meetings
11. Replies to the Commission related to Rec. 16-14, paragraph 12
12. Other matters
13. Future plans and recommendations
14. Adoption of the report and closure

2017 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE BLUEFIN SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 27-29 September 2017)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Responses to the Commission regarding:
 - 2.1 Rec. 16-08, paragraphs 14, 20, 23 and 27
 - 2.2 Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5*
3. Review the work conducted under the GBYP
4. Update of the bluefin tuna Executive Summaries
5. Workplan and recommendations for 2018
6. Other matters

* Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017, Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5

2017 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 27-28 September 2017)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for swordfish (including on the current boundary between North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks)
3. Responses to the Commission regarding:
 - 3.1 Rec. 16-05, paragraph 16
 - 3.2 Rec. 16-03, paragraph 10 and Rec. 16-04, paragraph 7
3. Update of the Executive Summaries for North and South Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish
4. Workplan and recommendations for 2018
5. Other matters

2017 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE SHARKS SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 28-29 September 2017)

1. Review Task I and II statistics
2. Review of new scientific documents for sharks
3. Review of progress in the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
4. Update of the Executive Summary for sharks
5. Workplan and recommendations for 2018
6. Other matters

2017 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE BILLFISH SPECIES GROUP
(ICCAT Secretariat, 27-28 September 2017)

1. Review of fishery statistics
 - 1.1 Task I (catches) data
 - 1.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 1.3 Other information (tagging)
2. Review of historical and new data on billfish biology
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. Plans for the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (EPBR)
6. Workplan and recommendations for 2018
7. Other matters