



Madrid – March 31, 2011

ICCAT CIRCULAR #1236 / 2011

TO: All Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities fishing tuna and/or shark fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR STATISTICS (TASK I & TASK II) ON ATLANTIC TUNAS AND SHARKS IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

Statistical and biological data are fundamental for the assessment and management of the resources covered by ICCAT. In accordance with Article IX (para. 2) of the Convention (additionally reinforced and endorsed by several Resolutions and Recommendations), the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter CPCs), are obliged to provide any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need in order to carry out the objectives of the ICCAT Convention.

Required Data

a) **Basic Task-I and Task-II data** (as specified in Appendix 1).

b) **Complementary data on:**

- Incidental catches of seabirds (*Recommendation by ICCAT on Reducing Incidental By-catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries*, [Rec. 07-07]).
- Incidental catches of sea turtles (*Resolution by ICCAT on Sea Turtles*, [Res. 03-11]).
- Mediterranean sport and recreational fisheries catch data, collected under provisions of:
 - [Rec. 04-12] *Recommendation by ICCAT to Adopt Measures Concerning Sport and Recreational Fishing Activities in the Mediterranean Sea*,
 - [Rec. 08-05/10-04] *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*.
- Bluefin tuna size samples taken during transport to and harvesting at farms (*Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming*, [Rec. 06-07]).
- Bluefin tuna size samples taken during transfers into cages associated with carry over declarations from farms (*Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 08-12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*, [Rec. 09-11]).

Deadlines

The general deadline for receipt of all data is **July 31, 2011**, with the following exceptions: For the stocks with inter-sessional meetings in 2011, the deadlines for reporting data are (15 days before the start of the meeting) specified below:

| <i>Meetings</i> | <i>Deadline</i> |
|---|-----------------|
| 2011 Blue Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting & White Marline Data Preparatory Meeting (April 25 to 29, 2011) | April 10, 2011 |
| Sharks Data Preparatory Meeting (June 20 to 24, 2011) | June 5, 2011 |
| Southern and Mediterranean Albacore Stock Assessment (July 25 to July 29, 2011) | July 10, 2011 |

The Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of all the data.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.


Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE STATISTICAL AND BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

Data coverage

Tuna, tuna-like species and pelagic sharks fished in the **ICCAT Convention area** (Atlantic and adjacent seas) as specified below:

- For all species: **2010** (calendar year) data are required.
- **Updates to previous years (up to 2009)** can also be reported taking into account the SCRS revision rules.

Formats

- All the data reporting process follows the **structures and formats adopted by the SCRS**. These are available at www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.htm. NOTE: data provided in the **Annual Reports or in other documents are not** considered as being submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of this circular.
- Please note that the electronic forms have been updated in 2011, following the recommendations adopted by the SCRS and the Commission in 2010. We strongly encourage using the updated forms available in the web at www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.htm. In addition, it has been created a separate email account STATS_info@iccat.int, to received data from the CPCs.

List of datasets requested

| <i>Dataset</i> | <i>Form</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Task-I fleet characteristics | ST01-T1FC | Number of fishing vessels per fleet, categorized by size (LOA), tonnage (GRT) classes and list of major targeted species. | The number of operational vessels is the preferable measure, but registered or licensed vessel numbers could also be used. |
| Task I nominal catches | ST02-T1NC | Yearly catch estimations in live weight equivalent (landed dead, landed live and transferred to farms, dead discards) disaggregated by fleet, species, year, gear, area and fishing waters. | Should contain all catches (targeted, and by-catch) including the ones from recreational fisheries, research and training vessels. Report separately live discards, when available. |
| Task II catch & effort | ST03-T2CE | Catch (all species catch composition) and effort statistics, disaggregated by fleet, gear, month, and geographical squares (5x5 for longline and 1x1 for other gears). | Preferably, observed data obtained from various sources (log-books, auction sales, port sampling, landing ports, transshipments, etc). Could be also equivalent estimations, raised to Task-I catches |
| Task II size sampling | ST04-T2SZ | Actual size frequencies (numbers) of fish sampled disaggregated by fleet, gear, sample unit, month, sampling area, and/or geographic square. | For reporting observed samples (i.e.: without any substitution or raising procedure) only. Use one form per species/year. |
| Catch-at-size estimations | ST05-CAS | Catch-at-size: estimations of the size composition of the catch (equivalent in weight to Task-I catches) disaggregated by fleet, gear, time strata, and area strata. Species: bluefin, albacore, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack and swordfish | Mandatory for CPCs with substantial catches of those species. Optional for remainder CPCs. The methodology used on those estimations (statistical inference, substitutions, raising process, etc.) should be made available to the SCRS. |
| Task II farming size samples | ST06-T2FM | Bluefin tuna size frequencies obtained in farm events (while caging, during fattening, farms harvesting, etc.). | For reporting individual fish based measurements (length and weight) obtained in farms by cage, and date of harvest and caging when possible. |

General procedures

- All datasets must be reported using the ICCAT standard electronic forms (last version available at: www.iccat.int/en/submitSTAT.htm) as described above in the table.
- Each electronic form contains a page of instructions with explanatory notes on each data field. Additionally, all the required ICCAT codes are embedded on the forms.
- With the electronic forms, filenames will be automatically generated. Rename each form with the proposed filename before submitting the data. It will serve as a reference in future correspondence or enquiries regarding the data submission.
- The submissions should be sent by electronic mail to “STATS_info@iccat.int”.
- Even if submissions are sent by FAX or by regular mail for official purposes, they must also be sent by electronic mail to STATS_info@iccat.int. Otherwise, the Secretariat cannot guarantee proper data processing.
- For additional details please read the “Manual of Procedures for the Submission of Information Required by ICCAT” (www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/Guidelines_ENG.pdf)

Please contact the ICCAT Secretariat Statistics and Informatics Department if you have any additional questions about this request.