



ICCAT Newsletter No.10

New ISSUE

September 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE ICCAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY


The ICCAT Secretariat has the pleasure to present its readers with **ICCAT Newsletter No. 10**, informing of the latest events and activities of our organization.

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and the Secretariat will be pleased to receive any comments aimed at improving this publication.


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RECENT MEETINGS


 **ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from March 11 to 14, 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to evaluate the merits of alternative CPUE standardization methods and make progress towards the completion of a CPUE Standardization Manual, to investigate the influence of

life history characteristics, environmental variability and gear selectivity on Status Determination with respect to the Convention objectives and to address other methodological matters related to stock assessment quality control procedures.


 **Inter-sessional meeting of the Compliance Committee.** The Meeting was held in Barcelona, Spain from March 24 to 27, 2009. This meeting responds to the request from the Commission contained in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to hold a compliance committee intersessional meeting in 2009* [Rec. 08-13]. The main objective of the meeting was to review in detail the responses to the standard questionnaire on compliance with recommendations relevant to the management of bluefin tuna (BFT).


 **Inter-sessional Meeting of the Tropical Species Group.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from April 20 to 25, 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to review progress on data-mining efforts to recover historical data, to analyze the tagging database with an aim to advance knowledge on stock structure, growth and natural mortality and to evaluate alternative time/area closures aimed at reducing catches of juveniles and existing port sampling programs for fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea to respond to the requests from the Commission.


 **ICCAT Sailfish Stock Assessment Session.** The Meeting was held in Recife, Brazil from June 1 to 5, 2009. The objective of the meeting was to carry out stock assessments of the Atlantic Sailfish


 **Inter-sessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems.** The Meeting was held in Recife, Brazil from June 8 to 12, 2009. The Sub-Committee met with the objectives of finalizing the evaluation of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on seabird populations, with special emphasis on: the degree of overlap between fishing effort and bird area distribution and advice the Commission on adapting the Recommendation 07-07 on reducing seabird by-catch. The Sub-Committee also started an Ecological Risk Assessment approach to identify species or

groups of species most at risk and prioritize future work of the Sub-Committee on by-catch issues.

 **Joint ICES-ICCAT Porbeagle shark assessment session.** The Meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from June 22 to 27, 2009. This meeting responds to the request from the Commission contained in the *2007 Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06]* which states that *the SCRS shall, as soon as possible but no later than 2009, conduct a stock assessment or a thorough review of available stock assessment information of, and recommend management advice for, porbeagle shark (Lamna nasus).* This joint meeting falls into the ICCAT and ICES collaboration on sharks' research framework.

 **ICCAT Atlantic Albacore Stock assessment Session.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from July 13 to 18, 2009. This meeting responds to the request from the Commission contained in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2008-2009 [Rec. 07-02]*, for the SCRS "to assess the North Atlantic stock".

 **2009 Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT.** The Meeting was held in Sapporo, Japan from August 31 to September 3, 2009. This Group was established by the *Resolution by ICCAT to strengthen ICCAT [Res. 06-18]*, to review the Convention and, notably, to evaluate its compatibility with developments in international law since the signature of the Convention in 1966.

 **ICCAT Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessments Session.** The Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain from September 7 to 11, 2009. This meeting responds to the request from the Commission contained in the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish [Rec. 06-02]*, for the SCRS to carry out assessments of the North and South Atlantic swordfish stocks.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

September

– *Species Group Meetings.* September 28 to October 2, in Madrid, Spain. Meetings will be held to update the available biological and statistical information on

all species managed by ICCAT. The Sub-Committee on Statistics will also meet this week to review data submissions as well as progress made in the development of databases at the Secretariat.

October

– *Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.* October 5 to 9 in Madrid, Spain. The SCRS will meet to review the status of all stocks and prepare responses to the Commission concerning scientific issues.

Scientists wishing to submit papers to the SCRS meeting should contact the Secretariat.

November

– *Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fisheries.* November 6 in Recife, Brazil.

– *Compliance Committee.* November 7 to 8 in Recife, Brazil.

– *21st Regular Meeting of the Commission.* November 9 to 15 in Recife, Brazil. The Commission will review the results obtained from numerous stock assessments carried out during 2009 to adopt the recommendations and resolutions for the management of these resources.

For more information, agendas and hotel reservation forms for these meetings, please see our web site at www.iccat.int.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat has continued to support the activities of the SCRS and the Commission.

Following the 16th Special Meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat implemented the following decisions:

– *Joint Fishing Operations:* in order to implement the *Recommendation amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 08-05]*, a data base containing all the authorized joint fishing operations was created. The information

submitted by the Contracting parties is published on a password protected website (<http://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.htm>).

- Regional Observer Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ROP-BFT): to carry out the ROP-BFT established by the *Recommendation amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05], the Secretariat has launched a call for tender to implement the programme during the 2010 season. The terms of reference are available at: http://www.iccat.int/Documents/index/2607-09_ENG.PDF

During the first half of 2009, staff members of the Secretariat attended the following external meetings related to ICCAT activities:

- *FAO Second Session of Expert Consultation on Port State Measures (Rome, Italy, January 26-30, 2009).*
- *Eighth informal round of consultations of States Parties to the agreement of the implementation of the Provisions of the UNSFA (New York, USA, March 16-19, 2009).*
- *33rd Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (Tunis, Tunisia, March 23-27, 2009).*
- *International Working Group on Tuna Purse seine and Bait boat Catch Species Composition derived from observer and port sampling data (Sète, France, June 15-19, 2009).*
- *Second Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (San Sebastian, Spain, June 29 to July 3, 2009).*

ICCAT played an active role in the various meetings with written and/or oral contributions.

In June a member of the ICCAT statistical department visited Ghana with the objective of improving the Ghanaian statistics.

Apart from the activities mentioned above, the Secretariat is responsible for the maintenance of the joint web page of tuna RFMOs (<http://www.tuna-org.org/>).

ASSISTANCE FUNDS

The objective of these funds is to encourage the improvement of statistics of species under ICCAT mandate. Currently, there is a budget for special funds for data improvement established by the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21].

These funds are supplied by voluntary contributions made by some Contracting Parties.

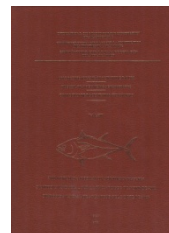
Since the last *Newsletter*, these funds have financed the participation of many of scientists to different SCRS meetings.

PUBLICATIONS

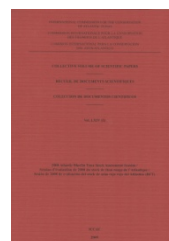
The following publications were issued in 2009:



Report for Biennial Period, 2008-2009, Part I (2008) Volumes 1 and 2, corresponding to the 2008 Commission Proceedings and SCRS Report. Since 2008 the Volume 3 is exclusively published in electronic format and only the summaries of the reports are translated into ICCAT's official languages. The Volume is published on the ICCAT web site.



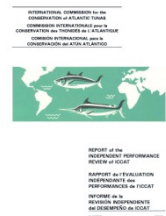
Volume 63 of the Collective Volume of Scientific Papers. Special issue which includes the documents presented to the 2008 ICCAT World Symposium for the Study into the Stock Fluctuation of Northern Bluefin Tunas (*Thunnus thynnus* and *Thunnus orientalis*), including the Historic Periods held in Santander (Spain).



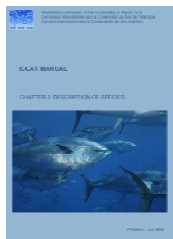
Seven (7) issues of the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Volume 64*.



Statistical Bulletin #38. Which includes catch series by species and country since 1950.



Independent Performance Review of ICCAT. Special publication that includes the report of the evaluation of ICCAT conducted by independent experts.



Chapter 2 of the ICCAT Manual. Although the new ICCAT Manual is available on-line, it has been decided to also maintain the printed version of this chapter. This initial publication of the new Manual includes Chapter 2 which contains a description of the species under

ICCAT mandate and other by-catch species, such as sharks, which are currently the subject of studies within the scope of ICCAT.

During the first semester of 2009, the Secretariat has actively worked in the design and structure of the ICCAT web site. The main objective of this task was to improve the general structure to make it more functional. A new database has been added that allows visitors to search for all past ICCAT meetings and link directly to access online the relevant report.

In this period, the collaboration with the Aquatic Living Resources journal has continued working in the preparation of the second joint publication.

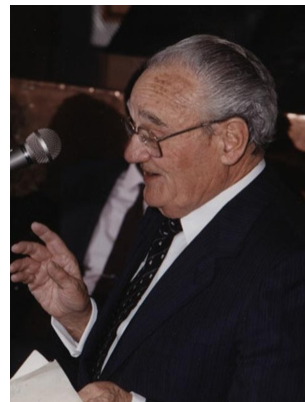
OTHER NEWS



Dr. Laurence Kell, expert in Population Dynamics joined the Secretariat in May.

Dr. Kell is highly experienced and is greatly recognized in the field of stock assessments which he acquired throughout years of work at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

OBITUARY



Dr. Olegario Rodríguez-Martín, the first ICCAT Executive Secretary and one of the founders of this Commission, passed away this semester. "Don Olegario", as he was known, directed the Secretariat during the first 24 years of ICCAT, promoting the work of the

Commission and its subsidiary bodies with particular emphasis on the work of the SCRS that he continuously encouraged.

A special session will be held in his memory at the forthcoming SCRS meeting.

All recent ICCAT publications can be downloaded from <http://www.iccat.int>

To obtain copies of older publications please contact INFO@ICCAT.INT