



2025 REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS) TO THE ICCAT PLENARY

*Seville, Spain
17 November 2025*

COMPLETE 2025 SCRS REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE AS [PLE-104](#)



General Topics:

- SCRS Challenges and Accomplishments
- Overview of Research Programs.
- Interpretation at SCRS meetings

Specific Activities:

- Progress in the development of an SCRS Science Strategic Plan
- Responses and Recommendations to Commission from the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, Subcommittee on Statistics, and WG on Stock Assessment Methods

NOTE: Details on the Executive Summaries, Status of MSE efforts, research programs, Research activities, and other responses and recommendations to the Commission will be presented during sessions of the appropriate Panels.



APPOINTMENT OF SCRS VICE-CHAIR

- Dr. Luis Gustavo Cardoso (Brazil) was appointed as SCRS Vice-Chair in February 2025.
- Primary responsibilities:
 - Sharks, Small Tunas Species Groups, as well as South Atlantic Albacore, attending those meetings during the year
 - Collaborated with relevant SCRS Rapporteurs to prepare Panel 3 and 4 presentations for these species, which he will present
- Dr. Cardoso has also assisted the SCRS Chair in projects such as overseeing the drafting process for the SCRS Science Strategic Plan, and coordination of preparations for this meeting.



SCRS CHALLENGES:

- **Ongoing high workloads for SCRS scientists and the Secretariat**
- **Increasing demands on SCRS Officers**
- **Continued or expanded work on MSE development and testing, Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Protocols, and/or evaluation of EC for BFT, SWO-N, ALB-N, tropical tunas (SKJ-W and YFT/BET/SKJ-E); initial work for ALB-S, BSH-N, BSH-S**
- **Ongoing need to further develop long term research plans for strategic planning, improving the science supporting management advice and efficiency in use of research funds**
- **Ongoing reduction in the time available for presentation and review of scientific papers**

2025 SCRS Accomplishments

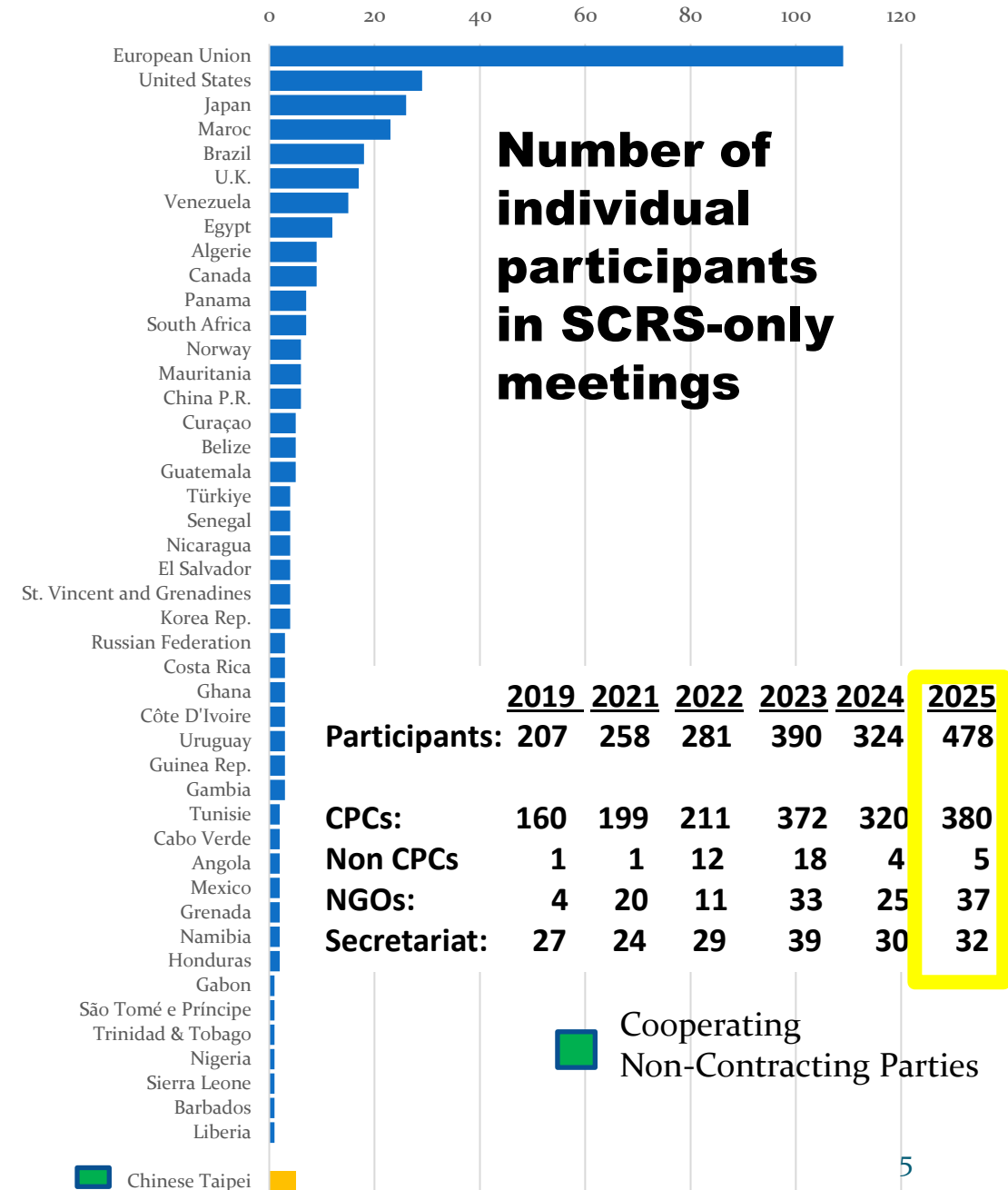
Demanding meeting schedule for the SCRS:

- Three (3) stock assessments: BET, WHM, SMA
- Fifteen (13) intersessional SCRS or COM/SCRS meetings: WGSAM, SMA(2X), WHM(2X), BFT, BET(2X), ECO/BYCATCH, SMT, SWGSM, Strategic Plan, and with Panel 1
- Four (4) workshops
- Numerous additional ad hoc online meetings (not included on the ICCAT Calendar) to deal with WG specific issues
 - e.g. meetings of analysts and extended species group to review progress and decisions during stock assessments; various Subgroups to advance MSE-related work associated with ALB, Tropical Tunas and SWO.

In 2025 SCRS Intersessional/Species Working Group/Plenary Meetings:

- 385 participants from 46 CPCs
- 208 SCRS Papers submitted through Sept. 2025
- 112 Presentations
- 42 responses to the Commission

Number of individual participants in SCRS meetings in 2025



SCRS SCORECARD ON TASK 1 AND 2 DATA AVAILABILITY FOR ALL THE MAJOR ICCAT SPECIES BY STOCK/REGION

(Table 6 in the 2025 Secretariat
Report on Research and Statistics)

There is a general increase of scores over time, but this increase is not uniform across stocks.

Data scores for billfish, porbeagle, and most small tunas are low.

Overall, the scores are consistent with how the SCRS categorizes each species/stock in terms of fisheries data availability (data-poor/data-rich).

Table 6. SCRS scorecard on Task 1/2 data availability for all the major ICCAT species by stock/region (methodology in SCRS/2019/045).											
Tableau 6. Fiche de score du SCRS sur la disponibilité des données de tâche 1/2 pour toutes les principales espèces relevant de l'ICCAT, par stock/région (méthodologie détaillée dans SCRS/2019/045).											
Tabla 6. Ficha de puntuaciones del SCRS sobre disponibilidad de datos de Tarea 1/2 para todas las especies principales de ICCAT por stock/région (metodología descrita en el SCRS/2019/045).											
SCORECARD on Task 1/2 availability for the main ICCAT fisheries (terminal year: 2023)											
FisheryID	Spc. Group	Species	Species/stock	SCORES (by time series)			N. flag fisheries ranked			Change (%)	
				30 years (1994-23)	20 years (2004-23)	10 years (2014-23)	30 years (1994-23)	20 years (2004-23)	10 years (2014-23)	against 1993-22 (30 yrs)	
1	Temperate tunas	ALB	ALB-N stock	7.21	8.19	7.96	13	12	9	1%	
2			ALB-S stock	6.37	6.30	7.11	9	10	7	5%	
3			ALB-M stock	2.64	4.56	5.87	12	9	7	1%	
4		BFT	BFT-E stock (ATE region)	6.43	7.62	8.79	10	9	9	4%	
5			BFT-E stock (MED region)	3.96	5.09	6.01	25	20	16	3%	
6			BFT-W stock	8.62	9.36	9.49	9	7	6	2%	
7	Tropical tunas	BET	BET-A stock (AT + MD)	6.71	7.56	7.74	30	28	29	0%	
8		YFT	YFT-A stock (AT+MD)	6.23	6.99	7.00	37	34	31	0%	
10		SKJ	SKJ-E stock	7.26	7.77	7.76	17	16	14	1%	
11			SKJ-W stock	4.45	3.82	3.91	6	5	6	3%	
12	SWO & billfish	SWO	SWO-N stock	8.22	8.74	8.44	11	11	12	1%	
13			SWO-S stock	7.18	7.36	7.20	9	8	7	0%	
14			SWO-M stock	5.16	5.91	7.78	10	10	8	5%	
15		BUM	BUM-A stock (AT + MD)	3.87	3.83	3.55	34	34	36	2%	
16		WHM	WHM-A stock (AT + MD)	5.17	5.29	4.44	18	17	16	1%	
17		SAI	SAI-E stock	3.00	3.27	2.64	17	15	16	1%	
18			SAI-W stock	3.80	4.01	4.38	18	15	11	2%	
19		SPF	SPF-E stock	5.03	4.00	2.83	4	3	3	6%	
20			SPF-W stock	3.21	3.48	2.92	6	6	3	2%	
21	Major shark species	BSH	BSH-N region	4.79	5.87	6.65	6	5	4	5%	
22			BSH-S region	5.75	7.14	6.79	6	6	6	3%	
23		POR	POR-ANE stock	0.50	0.99	1.24	10	14	8	1%	
24			POR-ANW stock	3.53	3.00	4.25	4	7	7	5%	
25			POR-ASE stock	0.70	1.38	0.67	4	3	2	0%	
26			POR-ASW stock	0.48	0.88	0.50	6	5	1	0%	
27		SMA	SMA-N region	4.52	5.76	5.76	6	7	7	1%	
28			SMA-S region	5.52	7.34	6.69	7	7	6	1%	
29	Small tuna species	BLF	ATL	2.96	3.79	4.38	15	10	7	3%	
30		BLT	ATL	1.76	1.90	1.88	7	8	8	3%	
31			MED	0.88	1.54	2.83	18	15	11	7%	
32		BON	ATL	2.43	2.80	3.28	29	24	14	1%	
33			MED	0.68	0.99	1.14	9	9	7	3%	
34		BOP	ATL	1.23	1.68	1.67	4	4	3	0%	
35			MED	0.00	0.00	0.00	5	3	1		
36		BRS	ATL	0.92	1.67	0.33	3	2	2	0%	
37		CER	ATL	0.00	0.67	0.80	1	5	4		
38		COM	MED	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	3	2		
39		FRI	ATL	4.71	5.42	5.30	27	23	19	2%	
40		KGM	ATL	0.98	1.45	1.43	8	6	5	3%	
41		LTA	ATL	4.12	5.12	4.88	30	21	16	1%	
42			MED	0.88	1.51	1.96	17	13	10	1%	
43		MAW	ATL	1.20	1.23	0.94	15	11	8	3%	
44		SSM	ATL	0.00	0.00	0.00	4	3	2		
45		WAH	ATL	0.98	1.28	1.33	35	25	18	1%	

2025 Overview of the Status of ICCAT Stocks

- 23 assessed stocks
- Stock Status estimated in the last year of data considered in the most recent assessment of each stock

(Note that BFT-E and BFT-W are included in the green total)

No Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) and Not Overfished ($B > B_{MSY}$)	Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) but Not Overfished ($B > B_{MSY}$)	No Overfishing ($F < F_{MSY}$) but Overfished ($B < B_{MSY}$)	Overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$) and Overfished ($B < B_{MSY}$)	Overfishing and/or Overfished Status not fully determined
11	1	4	3	4

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TEMPLATES FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

- In 2024, the SCRS proposed and the Commission adopted a new template for the Executive Summaries.
- For the 2025 SCRS Report, all Executive Summaries were updated using the new template.
- A key aspect of the new format is the Summary Table.

Table 1. Atlantic yellowfin tuna summary table.

<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Stock Status</i>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹	121,661 t (107,485 t - 188,456 t) ³	
TAC (2024)	110,000 t	
Current (2024) Yield ²	140,302 t	
Relative Spawning Biomass (SSB ₂₀₂₂ /SSB _{MSY})	1.37 (0.91-2.15)	
Relative Fishing Mortality (F ₂₀₂₀₋₂₀₂₂ /F _{MSY}) ¹	0.89 (0.40-1.46)	
Stock Status	Overfished: NO (19% probability of being overfished) ⁴ Overfishing: NO (42% probability of overfishing) ⁴	
Management measures in effect	Rec. 24-01 ⁵ TAC (2025) 110,000 t	

¹ Median of 4,000 Monte Carlo iterations of the Stock Synthesis base case.

² Provisional and subject to revision as of 23 September 2025.

³ Median and 80% confidence intervals are shown.

⁴ As estimated from the Kobe plot probability in each quadrant.

⁵ Rec. 24-01 only entered in force in June 2025, but other previous Recommendations (Rec. 22-01 and Rec. 17-01) also applied to YFT stock.

SCRS proposal for a new format for the ICCAT MSE Roadmap (PLE-109)

- The current format of the ICCAT MSE Roadmap is very difficult to review and edit.
- The SCRS is proposing an alternative format to the ICCAT MSE roadmap document based on an EXCEL worksheet. The aim is to facilitate reading, comparison among processes and navigation.

PROPOSED NEW MSE ROADMAP FORMAT

Stock	MP adoption (actual or planned)	ECP adoption (actual or planned)	Next year to run MP	Next stock status check	Next MP review	2025 Progress		2026 Workplan		
						SCRS	COMM	SCRS	COMM	
Northern Albacore	2021	2021	2026	2029	2026	Finalized OMs & estimation model. Tested current MP and alternatives specified in Rec. 21-05. Checked for ECs.		Present progress to PA2 at intersessional meeting. Run the current and alternative MPs to provide TAC for 2027-2029.	PA2 to meet intersessionally to provide feedback on how to finalize the MSE (objectives, performance indicators, MPs, tuning). Adopt 2027-2029 TAC at the annual meeting based on current or alternative MP.	Check f Conduc analyse COM or
Atlantic Bluefin	2022	2023	2025	2026-27	2027-2028	SCRS conducted additional retuning of OMs, incorporating the CKMR estimate of western stock abundance. Checked for ECs. Provided TACs for 2026-2028.	Adopt 2026-2028 TACs based on MP.	Conduct status check. Begin MP review. Present to PA2. Check for ECs.	Review progress on status check and MP review.	Continu Present feedbac Check f
						Continued robustness				

DEVELOPMENT OF A 2026-2031 SCRS SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN

With the aim of approving a new Strategic Plan at the 2025 SCRS Plenary meeting and adoption at the 2025 ICCAT Commission Annual Meeting, a draft Strategic Plan was developed through the following steps:

- ***Initial work to assess the situation, including gaps and needs, identify goals and strategies***
 - The process began at the 2024 SCRS Workshop, with a review and updates to the 2015-2020 Science Strategic Plan, plus some intersessional work
- ***At its 2024 SCRS Annual Meeting***, the SCRS agreed to develop a new strategic plan, following the general structure and approach of the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan, through an open, collaborative process.
- ***A first draft was elaborated during Spring 2025*** through an online collaborative process involving participants identified by the Heads of SCRS delegations.
- ***A Dialogue with the Commission***, was held at the SWGSM meeting, where CPCs provided comments and proposed edits.

2026-2031 SCRS SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN (continued)

- *At the SCRS Strategic Plan Meeting and in subsequent online editing*, lower priority elements were removed, CPC comments and edits were taken into account, additional modifications
- *Additional comments received from CPCs* included requirements of clear prioritization, performance indicators and a budgetary analysis of all the objectives.
- *At the SCRS Annual Meeting*, the SCRS appreciated the comprehensive list of objectives to improve how the SCRS carries out its work and enhance the scientific advice to the Commission. But the SCRS considered that it would not be possible to address all of these objectives over the period of the plan, and that prioritization and alignment with SCRS budget requests was required.

2026-2031 SCRS SCIENCE STRATEGIC PLAN (continued)

- Recognizing that extensive discussion would be required to make these changes, and considering the current workload of the SCRS,
the Committee decided to pause the development of a strategic plan at this time.

Overview of SCRS 2025 Research Programs and Outputs

Key SCRS Research Programs (will be discussed as needed in the appropriate Panels)

- Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)
- Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)
- Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
- Enhanced Billfish Research Programme (EBRP)
- Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP)
- Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)
- Tropical Tunas Research and Data Collection Programme (TTRaD)



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION

19.1 The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach proposed by CPCs, Rec. 16-14, para 4b

The Committee did not receive any requests regarding the application of a new approach.

19.2 SCRS assistance for the EMS WG in reviewing EMS domestic programme submitted, as well as the implementation of those programmes and suggest improvements and adjustment to such programmes, Rec. 23-18, para 17 4b

The Committee did not receive any new information regarding data derived from EMS domestic programmes.



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION

19.3 In 2015, the SCRS shall conduct another fishery impact assessment to evaluate the efficacy of these mitigation measures. Based on this fishery impact assessment, the SCRS shall make appropriate recommendations, if necessary, to the Commission on any modifications, Rec. 11-09, para 8

The Subcommittee is currently reviewing seabird mitigation measures and expects to complete its work and advise the Commission in 2027.



RESPONSES TO THE COMMISSION

19.4 The Secretariat should collaborate with the SCRS to evaluate the possibility for the SCRS to provide expertise and advice for the implementation of the (biodiversity conservation) instruments, and explore ways in which the workload of the SCRS could accommodate this new task; Res. 23-23

The Subcommittee on Ecosystems identified work occurring within the Subcommittee that contributes to marine biodiversity conservation:

1. ECOtest package development
2. ECOPATH-ECOSIM modelling
3. Sargasso Sea Commission's Socio- Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
4. Ongoing work to conserve Seabirds, sea turtles and sharks



Recommendations with financial implications

Sub-committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch :

Pertaining to Ecosystems

- Conduct a series of workshops to support EcoCard development.
 - 2026: Advance the development of indicators for a subset of components of the EcoCard,
 - 2027: Focus on advancing the development of environmental indicators.

Pertaining to Bycatch

- Organize a workshop in 2026 focused on the Subcommittee's Research and Data Collection Programme, as well as the development of guidelines for coordination with other bycatch groups of tuna RFMOs.



General Recommendations:

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems and Bycatch

Pertaining to Bycatch

The Subcommittee acknowledged the progress made by national scientists in characterizing the impact of ICCAT fisheries in the Mediterranean on sea turtles and recommended that these efforts continue and be extended to other bycatch species.

Recommend continuation of the review of the existing seabird bycatch mitigation measures and to advise upon updates in its 2027 meeting, as necessary. Sub-Committee members should submit relevant scientific information.

Sub-committee on Statistics

Main activities carried out in 2025

- Review of reporting status (Task 1, Task 2 and Task 3) and detection of inconsistencies.
- Presentation of the new dashboards (Task 1 NC and SCRS catalogues) and application of SCRS filters.
- Review of ST forms (harmonization and improvements) and update of estimated products information (CATDIS, EFFDIS).
- Progress on the IOMS (Form Manager, Vessel Manager, mandatory transition in 2025).
- Identification of data gaps and planning of recovery actions (dead discards, sharks, T2CE, small tunas).
- Support to all SCRS intersessional meetings through the required data provision.
- Evaluation of the stereoscopic camera pilot and preparation of the 2026 VWork Plan.



Recommendations with financial implications

Sub-committee on Statistics :

- *Continue Phase II and III of the ICCAT Regional Caribbean Data Collection Project*

The Committee recommended continuing support for Phase II of the ICCAT Regional Caribbean Data Collection Project.

- *Cloud infrastructure*

Considering the need for further developments (following the feedback provided by CPCs and the SCRS), as well as the necessity to deploy the new public data dissemination applications on a dedicated cloud infrastructure, the Committee recommended that additional funds be set aside specifically for these purposes. ²²



General Recommendations:

Sub-Committee on Statistics

- Hold an online intersessional meeting in 2026.
- For the Secretariat to work together with an ad hoc group to modify form ST09 to include the minimum feasible subset of additional information requested by Rec. 22-12, and to determine how to deal with potential discontinuities caused by changing the structure of form ST09.



Recommendations with financial implications

Stock assessment methods (WGSAM):

- The Committee recommends that an additional Bycatch Estimation Tool (BYET) training workshop (3-days) be organized in 2026 (depending on the state of development of the BYET Shiny App) and 2027, with the expectation that this will increase the number of CPCs that will report (dead and live discards).
- Training workshops (5-days) for advanced technical MSE in 2026 and 2027.



General Recommendations:

Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods

Recommendation on MSE:

- It was recommended to decide whether MSE responsibilities, in terms of discussing and providing overall guidance on MSE best practices, should remain in the WGSAM or a new working group on MSE should be created. If the WGSAM continues to hold these MSE responsibilities, the WGSAM meetings should last five days.

Stock assessments proposed for 2026

1) **South Atlantic Albacore** (assessed in 2020);

The ALB-S stock assessment conducted using a statistically integrated assessment model (SS) which will also serve as the basis for the Operating Models used for the ALB-S MSE.

2) **S. Atlantic Swordfish** (assessed in 2022) and **Med. Swordfish** (assessed in 2020)

The terminal year of data for each assessment will be determined to exclude those recent years where the use of trapline has increased beyond negligible levels.

3) **N. Atlantic Shortfin Mako** (assessed in 2017) A new assessment for SMA-N was undertaken in 2025, but due to data issues, the assessment model results were not considered suitable for management. The SCRS plans to resolve these data issues, including through the development of a joint abundance index in advance of the assessment meeting. Blue Shark MSEs will also be advanced intersessionally and discussed during the SMA-N assessment meeting.

SCRS Calendar for 2026

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
January				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
February						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
March						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
May					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
August					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
September		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
November						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
December		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					



Free day in ICCAT



Online meeting



Secretariat meeting preparation/holidays