



Madrid – April 13, 2010

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1105/10

SUBJECT: JOINT T-RFMOs MEETING OF EXPERTS TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES ON THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached Draft Agenda for the Joint t-RFMOs Meeting on the provision of scientific advice that will be held in Barcelona, Spain, from May 31 to June 2, 2010. This information was forwarded to the Secretariat by Dr. Alain Fonteneau, Head Scientists of the European Union.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.O. 
Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

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Attachments: Draft Agenda.

Draft Agenda

Joint t-RFMOs Meeting of Experts to Share Best Practices on the Provision of Scientific Advice *Barcelona, Spain, 31 May - 2 June 2010*

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of rapporteurs
3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
4. **Keynote speaker: Why such a workshop on tuna RFMOs and their provision of scientific advice?** This introduction will review the heterogeneous history and scientific products that have been produced independently in the past 60 years, and today, by the various tuna bodies. It will introduce the potential outcomes and benefits offered by this meeting, targeting an improved and in depth cooperation between RFMOs. It will also review and make recommendation on the future priorities in data and tuna researches that would allow the RFMOs to provide more efficient and fully transparent scientific advices on their tuna stocks and their pelagic ecosystems.
5. **Routine annual collected data: catch, effort & size DATA:** Common data collection standards for target and non target species, species composition sampling and special data needed for FAD fisheries. VMS data. Use and need of routine observer data. Harmonisation of data validation methods Socio-economy data. Data on changes in fishing technology. Data on ecosystems and environment. Data independent of fisheries (aerial, acoustics). Confidentiality and reporting requirements,
6. **Biological data.** Review of all major biological data and parameters used by all modern tuna stock assessment, especially growth & natural mortality at age, and spawning as a function of age. Need of large scale routine tagging programmes, using dart tags and electronic tags. Use of genetic studies. Stock structure and sub populations of tuna resources.
7. **Stock assessment** Review of stock assessments methods, taking into account the various peculiarities of tuna stocks and their fisheries. In particular a consideration of sources of uncertainties and bias in tuna stock assessment results, including uncertainty about the steepness of the stock recruitment relationship, stock assessment results and projections of stock status. Ways to incorporate realistic estimates of multispecies interactions within tuna fisheries. Stock assessment models incorporating environments and ecosystem framework and multispecies interaction.
8. **Communication between RFMOs and the world:** Scientific reports, documents and information built by RFMOs targeting scientists, commissioners and stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, citizens and press interested in tuna conservation). Public domain data and diversity of information available of the WEB sites of RFMOs.
9. **Enhanced co-operation between tuna RFMOs** on data standardization and exchange, tuna researches and tagging programmes, stock assessment methods, reports, normalized WEB communication, etc. Recommendations on how to improve collaboration between the tuna RFOs, in order to create a research area where research priorities can be accomplished jointly and more efficiently by different bodies. Creating world wide data base of detailed tuna C/E and size fishery data (CLIOTOP programme). These recommendation should target improved stock assessment of world tuna resources.
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment