



Madrid – 23 March 2017

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1861 / 2017

**SUBJECT: 2017 ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**  
*(Madrid, Spain, 5-9 June 2017)*

I have the honor to inform you that an Intersessional Meeting of the Albacore Species Group will be held on 5-9 June 2017, in Madrid (Spain).

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on our web site ([www.iccat.int](http://www.iccat.int)).

In order to have an estimation of the number of participants in advance of the session I would also appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **19 May 2017**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski  
*Executive Secretary*

**DISTRIBUTION:**

– **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman :	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
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Second Vice Chair:	R. Delgado	STACFAD Chair	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		

– **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**Attachment:** Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.

**2017 ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**  
**(Madrid, Spain, 5-9 June 2017)**

**Objectives**

In 2016, the Albacore Tuna Species Group produced a stock assessment of the northern and southern Atlantic stocks and several research lines were identified in order to improve future stock monitoring. Likewise, substantial progress was made on the development of the MSE framework, where several HCRs were tested, and many future avenues to improve the framework were identified.

In 2017, the Albacore Tuna Species Group plans to produce a stock assessment of the Mediterranean stock (last assessed in 2011). The assessment update will be based on data poor methods. The Group also plans to further develop and test Limit Reference Points and HCRs for north Atlantic albacore, and improve CPUE series for both northern and southern albacore.

Participation in the Albacore Species Group has been poor in recent years (see the 2011, 2013 and 2016 assessment and data preparatory reports), with CPCs directly involved in the fisheries not participating in the assessment process. Also, delays in the submission of the requested information have hampered the outcome of the Species Group. These issues made it difficult to evaluate the suitability of some data series or to address some uncertainties. The Group recommends that CPCs that can make valuable contributions to the assessments make the necessary arrangements to ensure the presence of their national scientists at those meetings. This is especially important in 2017, when an assessment of the Mediterranean albacore, a data poor stock, is planned.

Details on the preparatory work for this meeting are included in the Albacore Species Group work plan for 2017.

The specific objectives of this meeting are summarized as follow:

***North Atlantic Stock***

- Improved knowledge of the biology and ecology;
- Improved monitoring of stock status;
- Development of Management Strategy Evaluation framework.

***South Atlantic Stock***

- Japanese longline: consider alternative ways to incorporate targeting effects (e.g. based on species composition) to try to recover the early periods;
- Compare and consider feasibility of joint CPUE analyses for longline fleets (Brazil, Chinese Taipei, Japan and Uruguay) using fine scale, operational level data;
- Explore homogeneous approaches to standardize CPUEs of longline and surface fisheries.

***Mediterranean Stock***

- The intention is to, at a minimum, update the length-converted catch curve analysis used in the 2011 stock assessment, as well as the catch only method to produce an MSY estimate for this stock (SCRS/2015/159).

## **Meeting tentative agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics for Mediterranean and Atlantic albacore
  - 2.1 Task I (catches) data for Mediterranean albacore
  - 2.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data for Mediterranean albacore
  - 2.3 Evaluate relative indices of abundance for use in the Mediterranean stock assessment
  - 2.4 Progress on the available relative indices of abundance for the Atlantic stocks
3. Review of available and new information on biology and other life-history information
4. Mediterranean stock assessment
  - 4.1 Review and selection of stock assessment method(s) to be used
  - 4.2 Diagnostics
  - 4.3 Stock status relative to benchmarks
5. Management recommendations for Mediterranean albacore
6. Evaluation of HCRs for North Atlantic albacore
7. Recommendations on research and statistics
8. Other matters
  - 8.1 Update of the species Executive Summaries
  - 8.2 Other
9. Adoption of the report and closure

## **Additional information for participants**

### **1. Date and venue**

5 (Monday) to 9 June (Friday) 2017. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 5 June). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat, Madrid (Spain).

### **2. Contact information**

Chair: Haritz Arrizabalaga ([harri@azti.es](mailto:harri@azti.es))  
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor  
Madrid 28002, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 416 5600; Fax: +34 91 415 2612

### **3. Language**

The working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French.

### **4. Call for scientific papers**

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents, which were revised in 2015. These deadlines provide the rapporteurs with valuable information to better fit the meeting timetable as well as allow the Secretariat to make the documents available to participants in advance of the meeting. In 2015 the SCRS "proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents should be implemented; these documents should be provided in their entirety at least one week before the meeting in which they are to be presented to facilitate their review by participating scientists prior to these meetings". As such the full documents for this meeting should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **28 May 2017**. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

### **5. Provision of data**

National scientists should develop and analyze simple fisheries indicators, particularly on Mediterranean albacore (e.g. CPUE, mean size, proportion of juveniles, estimating fishing mortality, etc.), which should be presented at the 2017 Albacore Species Group Intersessional Meeting.

### **6. Funding**

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data.

According with the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **21 April 2017**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building is available [here](#) on the ICCAT web site. It is highly recommended to visit this web page in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is necessary to fully complete the invitation form including explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting and how it relates to the meeting objectives.

## 7. Hotel information

The following table shows some hotels located within walking distance of the Secretariat. The room rates shown are indicative and are not guaranteed. Participants are asked to make their own reservations.

<p><b>HOTEL SILKEN PUERTA DE AMÉRICA 5*</b>          Avda. América, 41          28002 Madrid, Spain          Tel +34 91 744 54 00; Fax +34 91 744 54 01  <a href="http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-puerta-america-madrid/">http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-puerta-america-madrid/</a></p>	<p>Single room (incl. breakfast): <b>€115</b> (VAT incl.)          Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€130</b> (VAT incl.)</p> <p>Only for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meetings.</p>
<p><b>APARTAMENTOS TOGUMAR</b>          C/ Canillas, 59          28002 Madrid, Spain          Tel. + 34 91 519 00 51; Fax +34 91 519 48 45</p>	<p>Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€75</b>          Double room (room only): <b>€66</b>          Single room (incl. breakfast): <b>€62</b>          Single room (room only): <b>€57</b>          (10% VAT included)</p>
<p><b>HOTEL ABBA 4*</b>          Avda. América, 32          28028 Madrid, Spain          Tel +34 91 212 5000; Fax +34 91 212 5001  <a href="http://www.abbahoteles.com">http://www.abbahoteles.com</a></p>	<p>Double room single use: <b>€90€ - €130</b>          (10 % VAT included)</p> <p>* Special offer: When booking, if you add the ICCAT code, you will receive a 10% discount.</p>
<p><b>HOTEL AC AVD DE AMÉRICA 3*</b>          C/ Cartagena, 83          28028 Madrid, Spain          Tel +34 91 724 4240; Fax +34 91 724 4241  <a href="mailto:reservas.acamerica@ac-hotels.com">reservas.acamerica@ac-hotels.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ac-hotels.com/">http://www.ac-hotels.com/</a></p>	<p>Double room single use (incl. breakfast): <b>€100</b>          Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€110</b>  <b>(10% VAT non-inclusive)</b></p> <p>Unavailable dates:          08-12 May          12-16 June          04-08 September          11-12 September</p>
<p><b>APARTAMENTOS GOYA</b>  <b>c/ General Pardiñas, 13</b>          Madrid 28001, Spain          Tel: +34 91 781 8930 Fax: +34 91 575 6867  <a href="mailto:info@apartamentosgoya75.com">info@apartamentosgoya75.com</a></p>	<p>Apartment 1-2 Pax          Accommodation only <b>€60</b>          (10 % VAT included)</p>
<p><b>HOTEL II CASTILLAS 3*</b>  <b>c/ Abada, 7</b>          Madrid 28013, Spain          Tel: +34 91 524 9750 Fax: +34 91 524 9751  <a href="http://www.hoteldoscastillas.com">http://www.hoteldoscastillas.com</a></p>	<p>April-May-October-November          Single room (incl. breakfast): <b>€106.70</b>          Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€125.40</b></p> <p>Rest of the Year          Single room (incl. breakfast): <b>€88</b>          Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€103.40</b>          (10 % VAT included)</p>

<p><b>HOTEL NH BALBOA 3*</b>  <b>c/ Núñez de Balboa, 112</b>  Madrid 28006, España  Tel: +34 91 563 0324 Fax: +34 91 562 6980  E-mail: nhbalboa@nh-hotels.com</p>	<p>Double room single use (incl. breakfast): <b>€110 - €139</b></p> <p>26-30 June: <b>€169</b>  11 September: <b>€249</b>  (10% VAT included)</p>
<p><b>HOTEL NH PRÍNCIPE DE VERGARA 4*</b>  Príncipe de Vergara, 92. 28006 Madrid (Spain)  Tel. +34 91 563 2695; Fax: +34 91 563 7253  E-mail: nhprincipedevergara@nh-hotels.com</p>	<p>Double room single use (incl. breakfast): <b>€118 (10 % VAT not included)</b></p> <p>Prices still to be determined:  12-16 June  26-30 June  02-06 October  11-12 September</p>
<p><b>HOTEL REGENTE 3*</b>  c/ Mesonero Romanos 9, on the corner of Gran Vía  Madrid 28013, Spain  Tel: +34 91 521 2941 Fax: +34 91 532 3014  <a href="http://www.hotelregente.com">http://www.hotelregente.com</a></p>	<p>Double room (incl. breakfast): <b>€83</b>  Double room (room only): <b>€78</b>  Single room (incl. breakfast): <b>€77</b>  Single room (room only): <b>€72</b>  (10% VAT included)</p>

Further information may be obtained [here](#).