



Madrid, 10 January 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0160 / 2018

**SUBJECT: 2018 SMALL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
(Madrid, Spain – 2-6 April 2018)**

I have the honour to inform you that the 2018 Small Tunas Species Group Intersessional Meeting will be held on 2-6 April 2018, 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.

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 March 2018**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A Elekon
SCRS Chair:	D. Die		
- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2018 SMALL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

(Madrid, Spain – 2-6 April 2018)

Objectives

In 2017 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2018 which included an intersessional meeting of the small tunas species group to provide management advice for WAH, BON, and LTA, using the data limited assessment methods initiated in 2016 and 2017. In preparation for this meeting, it was agreed that the Group should (electronically), select the most appropriate methods and data and knowledge requirements for providing the management advice.

The additional specific objectives of this meeting are summarized as follow:

- National scientists should develop and analyze simple fisheries indicators on small tunas (e.g. CPUE, mean size, proportion of juveniles, estimating fishing mortality, etc.);
- Update the life history metadata base of SMT, with new information collated during the recent years under the SMTYP;
- Discuss and plan to collaborate, as much as possible through joint working groups, with other RFMOs to improve and exchange basic fisheries data and data poor stock assessment methods for small tunas.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics
 - 2.1. Task I (catches) data
 - 2.2. Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 2.3. Other information (tagging)
 - 2.4. Fishery indicators (including length data analysis)
3. Review of available and new information on biology and other life-history information of small tunas such as stock structure.
4. Update of Data Poor Methods and development of management advice
 - 4.1. WAH
 - 4.2. BON
 - 4.3. LTA
5. Review development of a meta-database for small tunas and appropriate approaches for future assessment of small tuna stocks
6. Review status of SMTYP program to improve collaboration among scientists and obtain the information required for assessment
7. Recommendations
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and Venue

The meeting will be held from 2 April (Monday) to 6 April (Friday) 2018. (Registration starts at 08:30 am, 2 April). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain. For a map with the Secretariat's location and information about Madrid [please consult here](#).

2. Contact information

Chair: to be appointed

Secretariat contact: Paul de Bruyn (paul.debruyn@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, French or Spanish.

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 or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **26 March 2018**. Authors are reminded to closely follow [the Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

5. Provision of data

National scientists should develop and analyze simple fisheries indicators on small tunas (e.g. CPUE, mean size, proportion of juveniles, estimating fishing mortality, etc.). These should be made available during the 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. **16 February 2018**. 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 in the ICCAT web site ([here](#)). 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

A list of recommended hotels will be uploaded to the [ICCAT website](#) shortly.