



Madrid, 13 February 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0773 / 2018

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (*Bilbao, 23-25 July 2018*)

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the decision of the Commission at its 25th Regular Meeting held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 14-21 November 2017, an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in Bilbao, 23-25 July 2018.

The tentative agenda for the meeting is attached and the registration form has been published on the ICCAT website. We kindly request participants to make their reservations directly with the hotel. For hotel information, please click [here](#).

Participants wishing to request financial assistance from the Meeting Participation Fund should make their requests in accordance with the protocols and rules of procedure ([here](#)) before **24 May 2018**.

CPCs are requested to provide their preliminary positions on the matters to be covered during the meeting in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat by **29 June 2018** at the latest. CPCs wishing to submit other documents for this meeting are requested to do so as early as possible in order to be able to make the documents available in three languages by the start of the meeting. The Secretariat will post all documents on a dedicated sharepoint at least 2 weeks before the Panel 1 intersessional meeting or as soon as possible after receipt.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Driss Meski
Executive Secretary



- **Commission Officers:**

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

Attachment: Terms of Reference and Tentative Agenda.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1

Terms of reference

1. An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be convened in Bilbao (Spain) between 23 and 25 July 2018, in order to:

a) Briefly review fishery and scientific information for tropical tunas, including the status of the stocks.

b) Discuss conservation and management considerations for tropical tuna stocks and/or fisheries, including the requirements of Rec. 11-13.

c) Consider possible conservation and management measures for tropical tuna stocks and/or fisheries, that could include, inter alia:

1. Capacity limits
2. Catch limits
3. Time and/or area closures
4. Limits on/reduction of FAD fishing effort
5. Limits on/reduction of the number of support vessels
6. Other measures to reduce mortality of juvenile BET and YFT
7. Other measures

d) Identify mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of these conservation and management measures

Specific consideration should be given to practices with the potential to undermine compliance with management measures if not well controlled or implemented, *inter-alia*: transshipments at sea, incomplete or irregular reporting, etc.

e) Begin consideration of the development of management procedures for tropical tunas:

1. In the context of the development of management procedures, discuss the pros and cons of managing tropical tunas by stock, fishery, or some combination and consider how management objectives should be articulated for tropical tunas.
2. In light of the discussion under item 1 above: consider the implications with respect to the MSE process, and identify additional/alternate performance metrics for the tropical tuna MSE taking into account those identified in Annex 9 of Rec. 16-01 as well as conservation and socio-economic aspects of the stocks and fisheries.
2. In discussing possible measures pursuant to paragraphs 1c and 1d above, Panel 1 should evaluate their scientific basis, conservation and management benefits, and compliance elements. In light of this evaluation, Panel 1 should seek to prioritize those measures (or combination of measures) that appear to have the greatest likelihood of supporting the relevant conservation and management considerations identified pursuant to paragraph b above. Specific consideration should be given to the likely effectiveness and efficiency of these measures, and how CPCs verify compliance.
3. CPCs are requested to provide their preliminary positions on these matters *in writing to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 3 weeks before the meeting*. The Secretariat will post these submissions on a dedicated sharepoint at least 2 weeks before the Panel 1 intersessional meeting or as soon as possible after receipt.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Meeting objectives¹
4. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
5. Briefly review on tropical tuna fisheries and stock status (including preliminary results from the 2018 Bigeye tuna stock assessment and main challenges faced in the tropical tuna stocks assessments).
6. Current conservation and management measures (including challenges in their implementation and evaluation of their effectiveness).
7. Considerations for modifications of current conservation and management measures² or adoption of new measures that could include, inter alia:
 - Capacity limits
 - Catch limits
 - Time and/or area closures
 - Limits on/reduction of FAD fishing effort
 - Limits on/reduction of the number of support vessels
 - Other measures to reduce mortality of juvenile BET and YFT
 - Other measures
8. Draft plan for development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for tropical tunas
 - Potential management objectives
 - Identification of performance indicators
 - Possible management procedures, including HCRs
9. Recommendations to the Commission and request to the SCRS
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

¹ The meeting seeks to provide a forum for discussion on current and possible future management measures related to tropical tunas, including the possible future adoption of Harvest Control Rules.

² In discussing possible measures, Panel 1 should evaluate the scientific basis, conservation and management benefits, and compliance elements. In light of this evaluation, Panel 1 should seek to prioritize those measures (or combination of measures) that appear to have the greatest likelihood of supporting the relevant conservation and management objectives identified in item 8. Specific consideration should be given to the likely effectiveness and efficiency of these measures, and how CPCs verify compliance.