



Madrid, 20 March 2018

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1593/ 2018

**SUBJECT: 2018 BLUE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT SESSION (Miami, USA, 18-22 June 2018)**

I have the honour to inform you that the 2018 Blue Marlin Stock Assessment session will be held on 18-22 June 2018, in Miami, USA.

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 **4 June 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**

- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

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

## 2018 BLUE MARLIN DATA STOCK ASSESSMENT

*(18-22 June 2018, Miami, USA)*

### Objectives

The most recent assessment for blue marlin was conducted in 2011 through a process that included a data preparatory meeting in May 2010 and an assessment meeting in April 2011. During those meetings catch estimates were produced, updated biological parameters and estimated relative abundance indices for blue marlin. In 2011 the first full stock assessment for Atlantic blue marlin stock was completed. During the stock assessment, several models were used, including ASPIC, Bayesian Surplus Production model, and Stock Synthesis configured as age-structured production model.

In 2018, the billfish Species Group will perform a stock assessment for Atlantic blue marlin stock. At the data preparatory meeting the Group decided that three models should be used for the 2018 blue marlin stock assessment: Stock Synthesis, ASPIC and a Bayesian production model. A length-model (NZ50, Goodyear 2015<sup>1</sup>) was also proposed that would provide qualitative information using length-composition data. This model can provide an estimated trend of total mortality which could be used to compare the estimates of F from the other models utilized in the assessment.

### Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of updated data submitted after the Data Preparatory meeting, before the assessment data deadline (30 March 2018)
  - 2.1 Catches
  - 2.2 Indices of abundance
  - 2.3 Biology
  - 2.4 Length compositions
  - 2.5 Other relevant data
3. Methods relevant to the assessment
  - 3.1 Production models
  - 3.2 Length-based age-structured models: Stock Synthesis
  - 3.3 Other methods
4. Stock status results
  - 4.1 Production models
  - 4.2 Length-based age-structured models: Stock Synthesis
  - 4.3 Other methods
  - 4.4 Synthesis of assessment results
5. Projections
6. Recommendations
  - 6.1 Research and statistics
  - 6.2 Management
7. Responses to the Commission
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure

---

<sup>1</sup> Goodyear, C.P. 2015. Understanding maximum size in the catch: Atlantic blue marlin as an example. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 144 (274-282).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will be held from 18 June (Monday) to 22 June (Friday) 2018 (registration starts at 08:45 am, 18 June). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the Rosenstiel School of Marine Science, Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami Florida 33149, United States.

### 2. Contact information

Chair: Fambaye Ngom Sow ([famngom@yahoo.com](mailto:famngom@yahoo.com))  
Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye,  
CRODT/ISRALNERV  
Route du Front de Terre  
BP 2241, Dakar, Senegal  
Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262

Local Contact: David Die ([ddie@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:ddie@rsmas.miami.edu))  
Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies,  
University of Miami  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway,  
Miami Florida 33149, United States  
Tel: +34 673 985 817, Fax: +1 305 421 4607

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  
28002 Madrid, 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 **11 June 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

Parties should submit by **30 March 2018** the indices and other relevant data for blue marlin that need to be updated, before they can be included in the stock assessment.

## **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. **4 May 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.