



Madrid, 4 April 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1967 / 2018

**SUBJECT: 2018 SHARKS SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
(Madrid, Spain, 2-6 July 2018)**

I have the honour to inform you that the 2018 Shark Species Group Intersessional Meeting will be held on 2-6 July 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 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/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2018 SHARK SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

(Madrid, Spain – 2-6 July 2018)

Objectives

In 2017 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2018 which included an intersessional meeting of the shark species group to prepare for the planned porbeagle shark stock assessment for 2019. The 2017 meeting of the ICCAT Commission, however, requested that the Group re-evaluate the shortfin mako stock assessment in 2019 instead. As such, the work plan has been revised accordingly.

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

- Review activities and progress of the SRDCP
- Explore the application of an MSE for shortfin mako in 2019, based on the 2017 stock assessment, to evaluate the probability of success of the measures contemplated in ICCAT Rec. 17-08
- Discuss conducting an updated stock assessment of the shortfin mako in 2019 that would also incorporate projections with SS3
- Continue update of the spatio-temporal distribution and biology (age and growth, reproduction, maturity) of shortfin mako
- Review updated ICCAT tagging database incorporating sex-specific information to develop an integrated growth model based on both tag recapture data and growth band counts from vertebrae for shortfin mako
- Review the effectiveness of the use of circle hooks as a mitigation measure to reduce mortality of shortfin mako

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of the activities and progress of the SRDCP
3. Review of updated data from the Secretariat and new data received from national scientists, with special emphasis on shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks
 - 3.1. Task I and II catch data
 - 3.2. Task II effort and size data
 - 3.3. Tagging data – particularly sex-specific information
 - 3.4. Indices of relative abundance
4. Discuss conducting an updated stock assessment of the SMA in 2019 that would also incorporate projections with SS3
5. Explore the application of an MSE for shortfin mako in 2019, based on the 2017 stock assessment, to evaluate the probability of success of the measures contemplated in ICCAT Rec. 17-08
6. Continue update of the spatio-temporal distribution and biology (age and growth, reproduction, maturity) of shortfin mako
7. Review the effectiveness of potential mitigation measures to reduce by-catch and mortality of shortfin mako
8. Other matters
9. Recommendations
10. Adoption of the report and closure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and location

The meeting will be held from 2 July (Monday) to 6 July (Friday) 2018 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 2 July). 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: Enric Cortés (enric.cortes@noaa.gov)
Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center,
Panama City Laboratory 3500
Delwood Beach Road, Panama City Florida, USA
Tel: +1 850 234 6541, Fax: +1 850 235 3559

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (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 or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **25 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. 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. **18 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.