

Madrid, 7 February 2019

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0654 / 2019

**SUBJECT: 2019 ICCAT YELLOWFIN TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING**  
*(Madrid, Spain – 22-26 April 2019)*

I have the honour to inform you that the 2019 ICCAT Yellowfin Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting will be held on 22-26 April 2019, in Madrid, Spain.

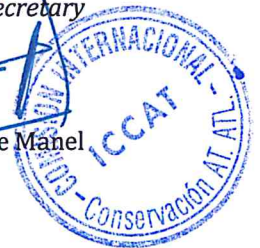
Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on the current meetings page of 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 **12 April 2019**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*

Camille Jean-Pierre Mahel



**– 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:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice-Chair:	R. Coelho

**– Head Delegates/Head Scientists**

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

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

**2019 ICCAT YELLOWFIN TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING**  
**(22-26 April 2019, Madrid, Spain)**

**Objectives**

In 2018 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2019 which included a data preparatory and stock assessment meeting of yellowfin tuna to collate and analyze all existing information required for stock assessment.

Details on the preparatory work, responsibilities and deadlines for the provision of data and documents, for this meeting are included in the Tropical Tunas Species Group work plan for 2019, which includes the following:

- Update yellowfin catches (T1NC: nominal catches, T2CE: catch and effort, T2SZ: size frequency) for all CPCs and fleets up until the year 2018.
- Improving ICCAT Task I and II data, including the completion of the re-estimation of the historic Ghanaian statistics for yellowfin (bigeye and skipjack) up to 2018.
- Estimations of *faux poisson* to be provided up to 2018.
- Preparation of a preliminary yellowfin CAS by Secretariat and CAA by National Scientist for discussion during the data preparatory meeting.
- Update of standardized yellowfin CPUE indices used in the previous assessment (i.e. Japan, Venezuela, United States, Chinese Taipei, Uruguay) through 2018 by year/quarter.
- Develop an aggregated longline index applied to the catch-effort data from longline fisheries.
- Abundance indices from surface fleets, particularly those that capture newly recruited fish could be useful if properly adjusted for changes in fishing power.
- Update tagging information about movements using most recent results of the AOTTP.
- Update biological information:
  - Review maximum age of yellowfin tuna, considering AOTTP data. Review mortality and age vector and make revisions as needed.
  - Uncertainties in yellowfin growth could also affect the stock assessment. AOTTP data would be very valuable to infer the most appropriate growth curve for yellowfin for the Atlantic Ocean. Different growth curves should be used as sensitivity cases in the assessment.
  - Update conventional and electronic tagging information about movements using most recent results of the AOTTP.

## Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new data on yellowfin biology
  - 2.1 Age and growth
  - 2.2 Natural mortality
  - 2.3 Reproduction
3. Review of fishery statistics
  - 3.1 Task I (catches) data
  - 3.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data
  - 3.3 Improvements to Ghana statistics (Task I and II, 2006-2018)
  - 3.4 Improvements to “*faux poissons*” estimations (Task I)
  - 3.5 Other information (tagging)
4. Review and update of CAS/CAA
  - 4.1 Preliminary estimations
  - 4.2 Improvements needed for a final CAS estimation
5. Review of fishery indicators
6. Review of available indices of relative abundances by fleet and estimation of combined indices

Note: To permit examination of more complex model structures, all indices should consider as factors: year, quarter and area.
7. Identification of data inputs and specifications for the different assessment models and advice framework (ASPIC, VPA2-Box, BSP, SS3, Others)
8. Review of the progress of AOTTP
9. Recommendations
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Date and Venue

The meeting will be held from 22 April (Monday) to 26 April (Friday) 2019 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 22 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.

### 2. Contact information

Chair of meeting: Shannon Cass-Calay ([Shannon.calay@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.calay@noaa.gov))  
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Sustainable Fisheries Division  
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149

Secretariat contact: Mauricio Ortiz ([mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int) by **14 April 2019**. 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

CPCs are requested to submit Task I or Task II data (including completing the re-estimation of the historic Ghanaian statistics and estimations of *faux poisson*) up until the year 2018, one week before the beginning of the meeting.

Main longline and surface fleets are requested to update standardized yellowfin CPUE indices until 2018. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series. Parties should submit the indices of abundance one week before the meeting. In this way the authors of CPUEs together with the Chair and the Secretariat will prepare a tentative CPUE evaluation table in advance to the 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. **8 March 2019**. 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. 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 is available on the ICCAT website ([here](#)).