



Madrid, 8 March 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1396 / 2019

**SUBJECT: 2019 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT SMALL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP
(Olhão, Portugal – 24-27 June 2019)**

I have the honour to inform you that the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Small Tunas Species Group will be held on 24-27 June 2019, in Olhão, Portugal.

Please find attached the objectives, tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate very much if you could 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 estimate 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 **7 June 2019**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel



– 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 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SMALL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP

(Olhão, Portugal – 24-27 June 2019)

Objectives

In 2018 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2019, which included an intersessional meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group, to apply data limited assessment methods, and to extend the PSA analysis to gill net fisheries of small tunas, taking into consideration the 5 geographical areas adopted by ICCAT for small tunas reporting and endorsed by the Group.

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 in the recent years under the SMTYP;
- Present, as much as possible, preliminary results on stock assessment for small tunas species for one of the 5 geographical areas adopted by ICCAT, based on data limited methods;
- 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 on the development status of the small tunas meta-database
5. Update of Data Poor Methods and review of appropriate approaches for future development of management advice for the different species
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 24 (Monday) to 27 June (Thursday) 2019. Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) - Centre of Olhão: Avenida 5 de Outubro s/n, Olhão, Portugal. Additional information is provided below (item 7).

2. Contact information

Chair: Flávia Lucena-Fredou (flavialucena@hotmail.com)
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Secretariat contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
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Local contact: Pedro Lino (plino@ipma.pt)
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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 **16 June 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

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 2018 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **10 May 2019**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related to the ICCAT [special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building](#) is available on 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. Additional information

IPMA-Olhão is located in the village of Olhão, 10km from the city of Faro and 300 km south of Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal.

Faro has an international airport with direct flights to many European cities (airport code: FAO).

You can travel from Faro Airport to Olhão by taxi (recommended, around €20-25). Alternatively, you can take a bus (*Próximo*) to the Faro city center and then a train or bus to Olhão.

The meeting will be held at the IPMA building (photo below) located on the corner of Avenida 5 de Outubro and Rua da Conserveira (coords: 37°01'27.5"N 7°50'15.6"W or 37.0243, -7.8377).



In Olhão there are two hotels and many hostels within walking distance of IPMA:

- [Real Marina Hotel and Spa](#) (5*) ~ €170/night
- [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#) (3*) ~ €75/night

In addition, there are some local hostels:

- [BJB – Alojamentos](#)
- [GuestMar](#)

According to the Olhão Tourism Office, there are now over 2000 accommodation rentals available in Olhão that you book using your favorite site (Booking, Airbnb, TripAdvisor, etc.).

Please note that the Algarve is a popular tourist destination in summer, and June marks the start of the high season. Participants are advised to book their tickets and accommodation as soon as possible.