



Madrid, 20 March 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1603/ 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 WHITE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (MIAMI, USA, 10-14 JUNE 2019)

I have the honour to inform you that the 2019 White Marlin Stock Assessment Meeting will be held on 10-14 June 2019, 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 **30 May 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 WHITE MARLIN STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

(Miami, USA – 10-14 June 2019)

Objectives

The most recent assessment for white marlin was conducted in 2012 through a process that included a data preparatory meeting in April 2011 (Anon., 2012) and an assessment meeting held in May 2012 (Anon., 2013). The last year of fishery data used in the assessment was 2010. During the stock assessment, two models were used, including ASPIC, Bayesian Surplus Production model, and Stock Synthesis configured as age-structured production model.

In 2019, the Billfish Species Group will perform a stock assessment for Atlantic white marlin stock. At the data preparatory meeting the Group decided that two main models should be used for the 2019 white marlin stock assessment: Stock Synthesis and a Bayesian production model (JABBA).

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of updated data submitted after the Data Preparatory meeting and before the assessment data (deadline: 30 March 2019)
 - 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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Date and Venue of the meeting

The meeting will be held from 10 June (Monday) to 14 June (Friday) 2019 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 10 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)
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)
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: Mauricio Ortiz (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 or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **3 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

As requested by the Billfish Species Group during the Data Preparatory meeting, parties should submit by **30 March 2019** pending updates for indices of abundance and other relevant data, so 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 2018 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance. However, due to the late announcement of the meeting, the deadline for the request of funding assistance will be **26 April 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 \(here\)](#). 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.