



Madrid, 12 December 2018

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 8759 / 2018

SUBJECT: 2019 ICCAT SWORDFISH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
(Madrid, Spain, 25-28 February 2019)

I should like to inform you that the 2019 ICCAT Swordfish Intersessional Meeting will be held on 25-28 February 2019 at the ICCAT headquarters in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about its 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 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 11 February 2019.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2019 ICCAT SWORDFISH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
(Madrid, Spain – 25-28 February 2019)

Objectives

In 2018 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2019 which included an intersessional meeting for the Swordfish Species Group in 2019, with the major focus on the progress of the swordfish biological and stock structure projects, and the development of the North Atlantic swordfish MSE process.

The work on North Atlantic Swordfish MSE started in 2018. ICCAT awarded a contract for development of an operating model and management procedure to an expert team in 2018. Several documents were presented to the SCRS in 2018, mainly highlighting a framework for N-SWO MSE. In addition, and following the capacity building courses on MSE provided in 2018 by ICCAT, some work was prepared with examples of development of an Operating Model for North Atlantic swordfish.

For 2019, the revised ICCAT-MSE roadmap has as the main objectives for N-SWO the following items:

- SWO Species Group meeting with MSE Session (meeting now announced)
- Finalize reference set of OM and complete their conditioning
- Begin testing candidate management procedures
- Conduct independent peer review of MSE code

With regards to other work in the swordfish workplan, the following ongoing activities for 2019 include:

- Life history (Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks), integrated in the ICCAT swordfish research plan
- PSAT tagging (Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks), integrated in the ICCAT swordfish research plan)
- Size/Sex distribution study
- Weight-length relationships

Finally, Rec. 16-05 states that the SCRS shall provide in 2019 an updated assessment of the state of the Mediterranean swordfish stock based on the most recent available data. At the 2018 Commission meeting it was agreed that for such purpose the SCRS should revise the available fisheries indicators of this stock.

This meeting has therefore three main purposes, one related to progress of N-SWO MSE, the second related to the progress of the Atlantic and Mediterranean SWO project and other activities related to the SWO workplan, and finally to update fisheries indicators for Med-SWO.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of work done to date on Swordfish MSE
 - 2.1 Revision of the work conducted in 2018 by the contracted expert team
 - 2.2 Revision of any other work done in relation with North Atlantic SWO MSE
3. Further development of the MSE workplan and roadmap for ICCAT North Atlantic Swordfish MSE process
 - 3.1 Discussion on the process to finalize the reference set of OM and their conditioning
 - 3.2 Discussion on start testing of candidate management procedures
4. Revision and further development of the MSE workplan and ICCAT roadmap for Swordfish
5. Progress on the Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish Project and other work related to the workplans
 - 5.1 Stock structure project, including biology and satellite tagging
 - 5.2 Size/sex distribution
 - 5.3 Length/weight relationships
6. Plan for the ongoing and future activities of the Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish Project
7. Data available for update of fisheries indicators for Mediterranean Swordfish
 - 7.1 Standardized CPUE
 - 7.2 Size structure
8. Other matters
9. Recommendations
10. Adoption of Report and Closure

Additional Information for Participants

The meeting will be held from 25 February (Monday) to 28 February (Thursday) 2019. Registration starts at 08:30 am, 25 February. 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 Swordfish Species Group: Rui Coelho (rpcoelho@ipma.pt)
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
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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, 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 **18 February 2019. Papers submitted after this deadline will only be accepted at the discretion of the Chair.** 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

Given that part of the meeting will focus on the ongoing work and planning of MSE, participants are requested to bring any data, information or preliminary analysis that may help and contribute to this process. For other issues, the meeting will focus mainly on items under the SWO workplan that are being developed in 2019, especially 1) continuing the revision of length/weight relationships, 2) continuing the size/sex distribution work and 3) continuing the stock structure project. As such, participants interested in collaborating in those studies are requested to present the relevant information.

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. **11 January 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 on 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**.

7. Hotel information

A list of recommended hotels will be uploaded shortly to the [current meetings page](#) of the ICCAT website.