



Madrid, 28 February 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1303 / 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS (WGSAM) (Madrid, Spain, 18 - 22 May)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Intersessional meeting of the WGSAM will be held on 18-22 May 2020, at the ICCAT Secretariat, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached, please find the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it 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 our current meetings webpage.

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 **8 May 2020**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel



DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
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Attachment: Tentative Agendas and Information for participants.

2020 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS
(Madrid, Spain, 18-22 May 2020)

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. CPUE standardization/incorporation of oceanographic and environmental changes into the assessment process
3. Harvest Control Rules, Limit Reference points and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
4. Approaches to estimate the level of unreported catches to include in future stock assessments
5. Review of stock assessment software catalogue
6. Recommendations
7. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meetings will be held from 18-22 May (Monday to Friday) 2020 (registration starts at 08:30 am, on Monday 18 May). 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 the meeting: Dr. Michael Schirripa (michael.schirripa@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149, United States
Tel: +1 305 361 4568, Fax: +1 305 361 4562

Secretariat contact: Dr. Ai Kimoto (ai.kimoto@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 and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers and presentations. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents which were revised in 2015. In 2019 the SCRS also established deadlines for submitting presentations. 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 and 2019 the SCRS “proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations should be implemented; these documents/presentations 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 and presentations for this meeting should be provided to info@iccat.int or ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **11 May 2020**. 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. **3 April 2020**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building is available on the ICCAT [website](#). 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.

6. Hotel information

A list of recommended hotels is available on the ICCAT [website](#).