

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 18 March 2020

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1707 / 2020

**SUBJECT: 2020 ICCAT SKIPJACK TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING  
(Dakar, Senegal – 19-23 June 2020)**

The 2020 ICCAT Skipjack Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting was scheduled for 19-23 June 2020, in Dakar, Senegal. However, the Secretariat is closely following the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID19) on our CPCs and the related impact on ICCAT meetings. Therefore, rescheduling of this meeting may occur.

In preparation of the meeting, however, please find attached 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 **5 June 2020**.

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.

## **2020 ICCAT SKIPJACK TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING** *(19-23 June 2020, Dakar, Senegal)*

### **Objectives**

In 2019 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2020 which included a data preparatory and stock assessment meeting of skipjack tuna to collate and analyse 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 2020, which includes the following:

- Update skipjack catches (T1NC: nominal catches, T2CE: catch and effort, T2SZ: size frequency) for all CPCs and fleets up until the year 2019, including new estimates of PS catch from T3+.
- Improving ICCAT Task I and II data, including the completion of the re-estimation of the historic Ghanaian statistics for skipjack up to 2019.
- Estimations of *faux poisson* to be provided up to 2019 (refer to methodology proposed in Duparc A. *et al.* 2020).
- Preparation of a preliminary skipjack CAS by Secretariat during the data preparatory meeting or alternatively compile size samples by fleet.
- Update of standardized skipjack CPUE indices used in the previous assessments through 2019 by year/quarter. Including baitboat and longline indices, index from FOB/FAD buoy data, Estimation of an index from FOB/FAD purse seine, and other indices (sport, larval).
- 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:
  - AOTTP data would be very valuable to infer the most appropriate growth curve for skipjack for the Atlantic Ocean.
  - Update conventional and electronic tagging information about movements using most recent results of the AOTTP.
- During the meeting, the Group will agree on the data to be used in the assessment in 2021 and on alternative assumptions for assessment models relating to: stock structure alternatives, fleet structure, possible structure of spatial models and uncertainty grid considering the current development of the MSE for tropical tunas.
- Assessment models to be used in 2021 meeting including production models, statistically integrated models and other alternative data limited models should be explored. Preliminary runs of assessment models should be conducted prior to the assessment meeting.

### **Reference**

Duparc A., Amandè J., Lesage M., Cauquil P., Gaertner D., Pascual P., and Bach P. 2020. Local market of the tropical purse seine fishery: update and perspective for its assessment in Abidjan. ICCAT Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. Vol 76(6): 983-991.

## Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new data on skipjack 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, 2006-2019)
  - 3.4 Improvements to "*faux poissons*" estimations (Task I)
  - 3.5 Other information (tagging)
4. Review and update of CAS
  - 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
7. Identification of data inputs and specifications for the different assessment models and advice framework taking in consideration the development of the MSE for tropical tunas.
8. Recommendations
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and closure

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Date and Venue

The meeting will be held from 19 June (Friday) to 23 June (Tuesday) 2020 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 19 June). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will most likely be held at the Hotel NDIAMBOUR SN, 121 Rue Carnot, Dakar 11000, Senegal. However, please note that the meeting venue is still to be confirmed.

### 2. Contact information

Chairs of the meeting:

Justin Amandè ([monin.amande@bigeye.fr](mailto:monin.amande@bigeye.fr))

Paulo Travassos ([paulotr@ufrpe.br](mailto:paulotr@ufrpe.br)) Universidad Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE, Laboratorio de Ecologia Marinha - LEMAR, Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura, Avenida Dom Manuel de Medeiros s/n - Dois Irmãos, CEP 52171-900 Recife, Pernambuco

ICCAT 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 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 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 **11 June 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. 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 2019, two weeks before the beginning of the meeting.

Main longline and surface fleets are requested to update standardized skipjack CPUE indices until 2019. 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. **4 May 2020**. 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 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.

## **7. Hotel information**

A list of recommended hotels will be made available on the ICCAT website.