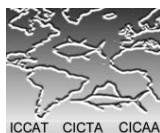


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 27 March 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1845/2020

SUBJECT: 2020 ICCAT MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING
(Online, 25 May - 2 June 2020)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting will be held online between 25 May and 2 June 2020.

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 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 website.

In order to organize the online meeting, in particular, regarding 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 **15 May 2020**. Participants shall also register to the meeting using the online [registration form](#) available in [current meetings page](#) of our website by **17 May 2020**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

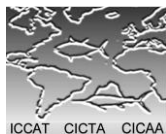
- Commission Officers:

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 MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

(Online, 25 May – 2 June 2020)

Objectives

In 2019 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2020 which included a stock assessment meeting to assess the stock status of the Mediterranean swordfish. In March 2020 during the Swordfish Species Group meeting a number of relevant decisions were taken regarding data inputs, appropriate stock assessment approaches, and their specifications, in preparation for the stock assessment meeting. In addition, the following work plan was agreed.

Work plan:

- Share necessary updates of CPUE series by 3 April 2020 with the Group. *Responsibility:* CPC scientists;
- Decision on the use of Moroccan, Spanish and Ligurian longline indices by 10 April 2020. *Responsibility:* CPC scientists;
- Task I, and size data by 15 April 2020. *Responsibility:* ICCAT Secretariat;
- Catch-at-size/age matrix for the continuity runs by 3 May 2020. *Responsibility:* ICCAT Secretariat
- Provide tentative stock assessment results one week before the stock assessment meeting, including the appropriate diagnostics recommended by SCRS (Kell and Merino, 2016¹). *Responsibility:* CPC scientists and ICCAT Secretariat
- Tentative **Tables 6 and 7** will be updated by 10 April 2020

Tentative Agenda*

25-29 May 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 16:30 CET)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of available data submitted according to the swordfish intersessional meeting work plan
 - 2.1 Catches
 - 2.2 Length compositions
 - 2.3 Catch at size/age data
 - 2.4 Biology
 - 2.5 Other relevant data
3. Summary of the relative indices of abundance available and decisions for use in assessment models based on the output of the swordfish intersessional meeting.
4. Review of the preliminary results of the assessment models, methods and other relevant data based on the swordfish intersessional meeting work plan.

¹ Kell L., Merino G. 2016. Stock assessment diagnostics for Atlantic Bigeye tuna. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT 72(1): 245-265.

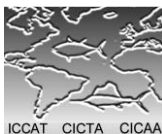
* An annotated agenda will be circulated by the Chair during the week before the start of the meeting, which will include the schedule for the different agenda items



5. Stock status results
 - 5.1 Runs and diagnostics
 - 5.2 Final results
6. Projections
7. Indicators and Limit Reference Points

1-2 June 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 17:00 CET)

8. Recommendations
 - 8.1 Research and Statistics
 - 8.2 Management
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 25 May and 2 June 2020. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences and will **not take place during the weekend**.

2. Contact information

Chair: George Tserpes (gtserpes@hcmr.gr), Rapporteur of Mediterranean Swordfish
Hellenic Center for Marine Research, PO Box 2214
71003 Heraklion, Poros, Greece
Tel: +30 2810337851

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor
28002 Madrid, 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, 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 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 miguel.santos@iccat.int by **17 May 2020**. Documents and presentations provided after that deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by 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. Registration

Participants are kindly request to register to the meeting by **17 May 2020** at the latest. Earlier registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting the online platform. Participants should also register for the meeting using the online [registration form](#) or via the ICCAT [current meetings page](#). All delegates from CPCs willing to attend the meeting shall notify in advance their Head Delegate or Head Scientist to ensure they are included in the official list that shall be sent to the Secretariat by **15 May 2020**.



6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using Microsoft Teams application for the online meetings. The hardware requirements to join an online meeting are listed at the following link: [Teams Hardware requirements](#). We strongly suggest using headphones with a microphone to be able to hear and speak comfortably during the meeting.

A brief and clear introduction of the application can be found at [Teams-overview](#). If you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.