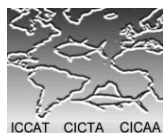


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 3 April 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1957/2020

SUBJECT: 2020 ICCAT SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEM MEETING (Online, 4 - 6 May 2020)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Mediterranean Sub-Committee on Ecosystems Meeting has been re-scheduled and will be held online between 4-6 May 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 **24 April 2020**. Participants shall also register to the meeting using the online registration form available in [current meetings page](#) of our website by **27 April 2020**.

Furthermore, the Secretariat will soon circulate a letter from the SCRS Chair on the rationale for re-scheduling this meeting, as well as that of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), that were previously cancelled.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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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 SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEM MEETING

(Online, 4 - 6 May 2020)

Objectives

Pertaining to ecosystems

In conjunction with the proposal to develop an Ecosystem report card for ICCAT, the Sub-committee will review progress on the inter-sessional exercise to update the status of the 11 ecosystem components that were identified. The indicators described in the assessments are to form the basis for a revised prototype report card that will be presented to the Commission in 2020. As in 2019, the Sub-committee aims to continue the work required to assess the feasibility of and provide information towards implementing ecosystems-based fisheries management (EBFM) in agreement with Resolution 15-11 and Article IV of the recently amended ICCAT Convention.

Pertaining to by-catch

1. Review of the final product of the collaborative work related to seabirds
2. Presentation of the progress of collaborative work on sea turtles
3. Support the development of indicators for the ecosystem report card

Tentative Agenda*

4 - 6 May 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 16:30 CET)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Pertaining to Ecosystems

2. Review the progress on developing an Ecosystem Report Card for ICCAT including the development of status and pressure indicators and reference levels
 - 2.1 Review adequacy of existing indicators against proposed new ones, and progress on the development of methods for screening and validation
 - 2.2 Review development of case studies and ecoregions
3. Discuss whether to continue to review information on the trophic ecology and habitat of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area (i.e. Res. 16-23).
4. Proposal to update the Sub-committee's short- and long-term objectives
5. Review feedback received from Species Groups regarding their needs and contributions towards incorporating/developing ecosystem considerations and discuss additional mechanisms to effectively coordinate, integrate and communicate ecosystem-relevant research across the ICCAT Species Working Groups and within the SCRS
6. Elaborate on the needs and contributions of the Sub-committee to individual Species Groups



Pertaining to By-catch

7. Update of collaborative work on seabirds
 - 7.1 Discussion of the results and implications on the current mitigation measures [Rec. 11-09]
8. Presentation of new studies on seabirds (to be considered by the co-convener of the By-catch component)
9. Update of the advances in the collaborative work of sea turtles (Workshop held in Malaga, January 2020)
 - 9.1 Discussion of the results
10. Presentation of new studies on marine turtles (to be considered by the co-convener of the By-catch component)
11. Review list of by-catch species that are not retained and their importance to the ecosystem and select the species to be used as indicators
12. Other matters
13. Recommendations
 - 11.1 General recommendations
 - 11.2 Recommendations with financial implications
14. Adoption of the report and closure

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



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 4 and 6 May 2020. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chair, EBFM: Dr. Alex Hanke (alex.hanke@dfo.mpo.gc.ca)

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531 Brandy Cove Road,
St. Andrews New Brunswick E5B 2L9, Canada
Tel: +1 506 529 5912, Fax: +1 506 529 5862

Chair, By-catch: Mr. Andrés Domingo (adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; dimanchester@gmail.com)

Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos,
Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo, Uruguay
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16

Secretariat Contact: Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@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 nathan.taylor@iccat.int by **27 April 2020**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter 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 requested to register to the meeting by **27 April 2020** at the latest. Earlier registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting the online platform. **Online registration** shall be made in the ICCAT [current meetings page](#) or [Registration form](#). All delegates from CPCs willing to attend the meeting shall notify their Head Delegate or Head Scientist in advance to ensure they are included in the official list that shall be sent to the Secretariat by **24 April 2020**.

6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using Microsoft Teams application for the online meetings. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting 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**.