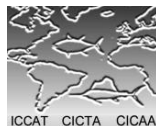


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 6 April 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1981/2020

SUBJECT: 2020 INTERSESSIONAL WGSAM MEETING (Online, 7 - 8 May 2020)

I would like to inform you that the *2020 Intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)* will be held online between 7 and 8 May 2020.

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 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 **27 April 2020**. Participants shall also register to the meeting using the online registration form available in [current meetings page](#) of our website by **30 April 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.

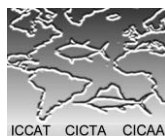


2020 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS
(Online, 7 – 8 May 2020)

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 IUU catches for inclusion in stock assessments
5. Other matters
6. Recommendations
7. Adoption of the report and closure

* 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



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 7 and 8 May 2020. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences.

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, Spanish or French.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

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 ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **30 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 request to register to the meeting by **30 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 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 **27 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**.