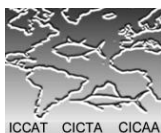


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 15 April 2020

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2176/2020

**SUBJECT: 2020 ICCAT ATLANTIC PORBEAGLE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
(Online, 15 - 22 June 2020)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Atlantic Porbeagle Stock Assessment Meeting will be held *Online* between 15 and 22 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 **5 June 2020**. Participants shall also register to the meeting using the online registration form available in [current meetings page](#) of our website by **8 June 2020**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*

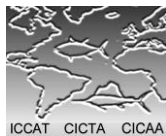
Camille Jean Pierre Manel

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
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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 ATLANTIC PORBEAGLE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

*(Online, 15-22 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 Atlantic Porbeagle shark. Initially, a joint ICES-ICCAT intersessional meeting was planned, but due to the COVID-19 situation and impossibility to conduct in-person meetings, it was decided not to proceed with the joint meeting this year. Accordingly, the meeting will focus on the Northwest Atlantic stock of porbeagle shark, and the Southwest and Southeast stocks, to the extent possible. A joint assessment of the Northeast Atlantic stock of porbeagle shark with ICES is envisaged for 2022.

The main objectives of this meeting are:

- i. Assemble and review all available porbeagle information, including:
  - ICCAT fisheries
  - Life history, tagging, length composition, genetics, and relative abundance indices
- ii. Assess the status of porbeagle stocks, including:
  - A review of the ABNJ Southern Hemisphere porbeagle assessment conducted in 2017
  - Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) for the North and South Atlantic
  - Using alternative stock status evaluation approaches: length-based SPR and an Incidental Catch Model (ICM) for selected stocks
  - Use production models if feasible
- iii. Update any information from research projects (SRDCP and others)

Due to time constraints authors are encouraged to only provide documents and presentations related to the main objectives of the meeting. Other papers should be submitted to the September 2020 Shark Species Group meeting.

### Work plan

The following intersessional work plan is to be completed before the June 2020 stock assessment session.

After reviewing the previous ICCAT shark ERAs conducted in 2009/2012 it was agreed that it would be worth updating the ERA specifically for porbeagle with new biological and fishery information. Since retention of porbeagle became prohibited by several CPCs towards the end of the 2000s, it was decided that the ERA should focus on the 2010-2018 period and that the analysis should consider the North and South Atlantic separately. The method to be used is a quantitative ERA based on the SAFE (Sustainability Assessment for Fishing Effects) approach.

Since it is unlikely that indices of abundance and length compositions for porbeagle are useful for traditional stock assessment models as a result of changes in management measures, the use of alternative assessment methods is encouraged. To that end, a length-based SPR (spawning potential ratio) approach and an incidental catch model (ICM) are identified as potentially useful approaches to evaluate stock status for selected stocks. The tentative plan is thus to use the length-based SPR for the Southwest stock and the ICM for the Northwest stock, although these methods can also be adapted to assess the other stocks. However, we still ask that CPCs that can develop credible abundance indices do so prior to the meeting for potential use in more traditional production models.

Two spreadsheets requesting data on individual lengths and on the status and disposition of porbeagles caught in ICCAT fleets were sent to the active members of the Shark Species Group in March.

To summarize, we are requesting that any information on size, status/action, abundance indices, or any other data relevant to the porbeagle assessment be sent by mid-May to allow for sufficient time to incorporate in preliminary model runs.

### **Tentative Agenda\***

#### **15-19 June 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 16:30 CET)**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of available data submitted by the assessment data deadline (**15 May 2020**)
  - 2.1 Stock identity
  - 2.2 Catches
  - 2.3 Indices of abundance
  - 2.4 Life history
  - 2.5 Length compositions
  - 2.6 Other relevant data
3. Methods and other data relevant to the assessment
  - 3.1 Quantitative (SAFE) Ecological Risk Assessment
  - 3.2 An incidental catch model (ICM)
  - 3.3 Length-based Spawning Potential Ratio
  - 3.4 Other methods
4. Stock status results
  - 4.1 Quantitative (SAFE) Ecological Risk Assessment
  - 4.2 An incidental catch model (ICM)
  - 4.3 Length-based Spawning Potential Ratio
  - 4.4 Other methods
  - 4.5 Synthesis of assessment results
5. Recommendations
  - 5.1 Research and statistics
  - 5.2 Management

#### **22 June 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 17:00 CET)**

6. Executive Summary for Porbeagle
7. Other matters
8. 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 tentative schedule for the different agenda items.

## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held *Online* between 15 and 22 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: Enric Cortés ([enric.cortes@noaa.gov](mailto:enric.cortes@noaa.gov)), Rapporteur of Shark Species Group  
NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood  
Beach Road, Panama City, Florida, USA  
Tel: +1 850 234 6541; +1 850 814 4216

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto: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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **7 June 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 **8 June 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 **5 June 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**.