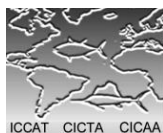


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 29 April 2020

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2536/2020

**SUBJECT:** 2020 ICCAT ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (*Online, 29 June - 8 July 2020*)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment ONLINE Meeting has been scheduled and will be held between 29 June and 8 July 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 **19 June 2020**. Participants shall also register to the meeting using the online registration form available in the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **22 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
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 ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING

*(Online, 29 June - 8 July 2020)*

### Objectives

In 2016, the South Atlantic albacore stock was assessed and the TAC was set for 2017-2020 (Rec. 16-07). In 2017, the Commission adopted an interim Harvest Control Rule and set the TAC for 2018-2020 (Rec. 17-04). The objective of this meeting is to update the management advice for both stocks using productions models and, in the case of North Atlantic albacore, the interim harvest control rule in place. Also, in 2018 the North Atlantic albacore MSE was peer reviewed and the tentative adoption of a long-term Management Procedure (MP) is scheduled in 2020 (Rec. 17-04). The Group will revise the latest developments to provide advice regarding the adoption of an MP.

Regarding Mediterranean albacore, the objective is to update the abundance indices in order to confirm recent stock trends. For all stocks, there is a need to revise research priorities and develop an updated research plan.

### Tentative Agenda\*

**29 June - 8 July 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 16:30 CET)**

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of available data for assessments
  - 2.1 Biology
  - 2.2 Catch, effort and size
  - 2.3 Relative abundance indices
3. North Atlantic albacore:
  - 3.1 Updated stock status
  - 3.2 Harvest Control rules and Management procedures
  - 3.3 Updated TAC advice
  - 3.4 Exceptional Circumstances:
    - 3.4.1 Evaluation
    - 3.4.2 Panel 2 advice
  - 3.5 New MSE roadmap and future work
  - 3.6 Management recommendations
4. South Atlantic albacore:
  - 4.1 Updated stock status
  - 4.2 Projections
  - 4.3 Management recommendations
5. Albacore research for north, south and Mediterranean stocks: current status and new proposals.
6. Recommendations on research and statistics
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 29 June and 8 July 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

Chairs:

Haritz Arrizabalaga (harri@azti.es)  
AZTI  
Marine Research  
Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA)  
Herrera Kaia Portualdea z/g 20110 Pasaia, Spain  
Tel: +34 667174477

Josetxu Ortiz de Urbina (urbina@ieo.es)  
Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades,  
Instituto Español de Oceanografía, C.O de Málaga,  
Puerto Pesquero s/n, 29640 Fuengirola Málaga, Spain  
Tel: +34 952 197 124, Fax: +34 952 463 808

Secretariat contact:

Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@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 [mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int) by **22 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 requested to register to the meeting by **22 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 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 **19 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**.