

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, 26 May 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3469/ 2020

SUBJECT: BLUEFIN TUNA GROWTH IN FARMS SUB-GROUP MEETING (BFT GF-SG)
(Online, 3 June 2020)

In order to facilitate the SCRS response to the Commission (Recommendation 19-04, paragraph 28), namely to *review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c and present those results to the 2020 Annual meeting of the Commission*, during the intersessional meeting of the Bluefin tuna Species Group a Sub-group on Growth in Farms (BFT GF-SG) was created.

I would like to inform you that an ONLINE meeting of the Bluefin tuna Sub-group on Growth in Farms has been scheduled and will be held on **3 June 2020** (12:00 am Madrid time).

Attached please find the objective, the tentative agenda of the meeting and the current list of members of the BFT GF-SG.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

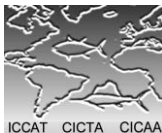
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-Head Delegates / Head Scientists

-Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.



BLUEFIN TUNA GROWTH IN FARMS SUB-GROUP MEETING

(Online, 3 June 2020)

In order to facilitate the SCRS response to the Commission (Recommendation 19-04, paragraph 28), namely to *review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c and present those results to the 2020 Annual meeting of the Commission*, a BFT Sub-group on Growth in Farms (BFT GF-SG) was created during the intersessional meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group. The following Terms of Reference were also defined for the BFT GF-SG:

"In response to the request by the Commission as per paragraph 28 of ICCAT Rec. [19-04], the mandate of the Bluefin tuna Growth in Farms Sub-Group (BFT GF-SG) is to present information to the Bluefin tuna Species Group to enable an update of the Growth Table to be formulated by consensus with the aim of providing as comprehensive response to the Commission request."

Furthermore, a workplan was also presented, that included the following activities:

- Define what is meant by maximum growth (mean maximum growth? absolute maximum growth?) and the best way of presenting this maximum growth (e.g. confidence intervals).
- Discuss and agree on how the updated Growth Table is to be constructed, considering the requirement to look at growth over the whole range of length classes as a function of time. Is the best approach to use modal data, which is currently more readily available, as the main data source to provide the bulk of the update and individual data to validate? Discuss whether one Growth Table is sufficient or whether different geographical areas need their own Growth Tables.
- Create a detailed summary table (related to the update of the Growth Table) in which the following information is provided:
 - Study subject.
 - Brief description of objective. Brief description of methodology.
 - Brief overview of important results.
 - Expected usefulness of the results to update the Growth Table. Pros and cons of the methodology in relation to the results obtained.
 - Brief analysis and conclusion of the usefulness of the study to update the Growth Table
- Review L-W relationships to ensure there are appropriate relationships for the different geographical areas (there is already a specific relationship for Adriatic and Med).
- Investigate the replicability of SC BFT SFL measurements carried out at caging and at harvest. Do the measurements taken sufficiently represent the SFL distribution in the cage at caging and harvesting? Is the 20% sample taken at caging sufficient?
- Decide who is responsible for carrying out each of the tasks above and provide a summary of outcomes and conclusions to the BFT species group.

The first meeting of the BFT GF-SG is scheduled for 3 June 2020 (online), with the following tentative agenda:

1. Any other items to be added to the Workplan (WP)
2. Agree who will be responsible for each of the various components of the WP and timelines



Tentative Agenda

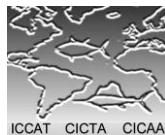
3 June 2020 (working hours 12:00 - 14:00 CET)

The first meeting of the BFT GF-SG is scheduled for **3 June 2020** (online), with the following tentative agenda:

1. Any other items to be added to the work plan (WP)
2. Agree who will be responsible for each of the various components of the WP and timelines

Current list of members of the Bluefin tuna Growth in Farm Sub-Group

Name	Affiliation
Simeon Deguara	Chair, EU-Malta
Ana Gordo	BFT Rapporteur E-Atl, EU-Spain
John Walter	BFT Rapporteur W-Atl, USA
Dheeraj Busawon	Canada
Nathan Steward	Canada
Ivan Katavic	EU-Croatia
Tanja Šegvić-Bubić	EU-Croatia
Leon Grubisic	EU-Croatia
Christopher Bridges	EU-Germany
Antonio Di Natale	EU-Italy
Pedro Lino	EU-Portugal
Vicent Puig	EU-Spain
Shuya Nakatsuka	Japan
Noureddine Abid	Morocco
Rafik Zarrad	Tunisia
Sukru Yildirim	Turkey
Miguel dos Santos	Secretariat
Mauricio Ortiz	Secretariat
Francisco Alemany	Secretariat (GBYP Coordinator)
Alfonso Pagá	Secretariat (GBYP)



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held **Online** on **3 June 2020**. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 14:00 CET** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chairs:

Simeon Deguara (dsd@aquabt.com)
Research and Development Coordinator, AquaBioTech Group, Central Complex, Naggar Ste., Mosta,
MST 1761, Malta
Tel: +356 994 23123, E-Mail: dsd@aquabt.com

Secretariat contact:

Francisco Alemany (francisco.alemany@iccat.int)
GBYP Coordinator
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. 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 members of the BFT GF-SG **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.