

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 June 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4021 / 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP (Online, 20 – 28 July 2020)

I would like to inform you that the *2020 Second Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Species Group* will be held online between 20 - 28 July 2020.

Attached, please find the meeting objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about their 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 **10 July 2020**. Participants shall also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **13 July 2020**.

Please accept 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
Chairs Panels 1-4			

– Head Delegates / Head Scientists

– Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agendas and Information for participants.

2020 SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 20 - 28 July 2020)

Objectives

1. Assessment: Review results and initial projections, draft management advice and initial draft of executive summary
2. MSE: Examine OMs overall performance over different CMPs to identify behaviour that might not match earlier perceptions or that could be difficult to explain based on current knowledge. Consider possible modification of axes to be included in interim grid, and designation of most important robustness trials.
3. Review progress on 2020 responses to the commission regarding growth in farms and best catch rate table

While the nature of the SCRS annual meeting remains uncertain, the intention of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group is to maintain the path forward outlined in the May meeting. The focus of the meetings will be on the stock assessment, MSE and responses to the Commission. Hence, only papers directly relevant to the above-mentioned objectives will be scheduled for presentation. Other scientific papers will be accepted but we cannot guarantee that there will be time to present them and they will be presented at the end of the meeting, if time permits. Given scheduling challenges posed by COVID-19, the exact days for each of the topics may need to be adjusted depending upon availability of key personnel.

Tentative Agenda

Day 1 ASSESSMENT focus (20 July, 4.5 hours from 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

- 1 Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements and assignment of rapporteurs
- 2 Review of scientific papers relevant to assessment
- 3 Review of model results
 - 3.1 East (VPA)
 - 3.2 West (VPA and Stock Synthesis)
 - 3.3 Additional runs/modifications
- 4 Review of projections
 - 4.1 East (VPA)
 - 4.2 West (VPA and Stock Synthesis)

Day 2 MSE focus (21 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

- 5 Review of OMs performance over different CMPs
 - 5.1 Evaluate OM behavior that might not match perceptions or that could be difficult to explain
 - 5.2 Possible refinement of interim grid and robustness trials
 - 5.3 Obtain as close as possible agreement on an interim grid

Day 3 MSE focus (22 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

(continue (5) Review of OMs performance over different CMPs from day 2)

- 6 Review of CMP development progress
 - 6.1 Summarization of CMPs across OMs interim grid

6.2 Advice for further CMP development

Day 4 ASSESSMENT and (23 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

7 Assessment results

- 7.1 Any additional modelling from day 1
- 7.2 Stock status
- 7.3 Projection advice

Day 5 MSE and Response to Commission focus (24 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

(continue (6) Review of CMP development progress from day 3)

8 Path forward for MSE

9 Responses to the commission

- 9.1 Progress on growth in farms response (30 min)
- 9.2 Presentation of work to revise the catch rate table (1 hour)

10 GBYP matters requiring attention of WG (20 min.)

Day 6 Report focus (27 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

11 First Review of Report sections

- 11.1 Assessment (1 hour)
- 11.2 MSE (1 hour)
- 11.3 Other sections (1 hour)

12 First Review of 2020 Executive summary (1 hour, not to be adopted at this meeting)

Day 7. Report focus (28 July, 4.5 hours 12:00 to 16:30 CET)

13 Adoption of the report

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meetings will be held **online** between 20 and 28 July 2020. Meetings will be held from approximately **12:00-16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences and will **not take place during the weekend**.

2. Contact information

Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

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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, French or Spanish.

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 the SCRS “proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents should be implemented; these documents 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 for this meeting should be provided to info@iccat.int or ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **13 July 2020**. 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 for the meeting by **13 July 2020** at the latest. Earlier registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting the online platform. **Online registration** shall

be carried out on 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 **10 July 2020**.

6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the **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 duly registered participants **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.