

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, 8 July 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4713/ 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SPECIES GROUPS MEETINGS (*Online, 31 August – 9 September 2020*)

Following ICCAT Circular #4382, dated 26 June 2020, I would like to inform you that five one day meetings will be held Online between 31 August – 9 September 2020, for Swordfish, Sharks, Albacore and Bluefin tuna Species Groups and the Sub-Committee on Statistics, respectively. In addition, a three-day meeting for the Tropical Tunas Species Group has also been scheduled.

Attached, please find the tentative agenda of the meetings and other relevant information regarding 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 meetings, in particular, regarding the number of participants in advance of the sessions, I would also appreciate if you could send a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting to the Secretariat by **21 August 2020**. Participants shall also register for the meetings using the Online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **26 August and 2 September 2020** at the latest, for the one day meetings and the Tropical Tuna Species Group meeting, respectively.

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
Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair	R. Coelho

– **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Tentative Agendas and Information for participants.

2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP MEETING

(Online, 31 August 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Review of Task 1 catches (to be included in the Executive Summary)
2. Adoption of the Mediterranean Swordfish Executive Summary
3. Brief review of progress made under the ICCAT short-term contract on *Swordfish growth, reproduction and genetics studies: biological samples collection and preliminary analysis*
4. Work plan for 2021
5. Recommendations (special emphasis on those with financial implications)
6. Responses to the Commission [Rec. 16-05, para. 45]
7. Adoption of the text to be included in the SCRS 2020 advice to the Commission

2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE SHARKS SPECIES GROUP MEETING

(Online, 1 September 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Review of Task 1 catches (to be included in the Executive Summary)
2. Adoption of the Porbeagle Executive Summary
3. Brief review of progress made under the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP) and future activities
4. Work plan for 2021
5. Recommendations (special emphasis on those with financial implications)
6. Responses to the Commission [Rec. 19-06, para. 11]
7. Adoption of the text to be included in the SCRS 2020 advice to the Commission

2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP MEETING

(Online, 2 September 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Review of Task 1 catches (to be included in the Executive Summary)
2. Adoption of the Atlantic Albacore Executive Summary
3. Work plan for 2021
4. Recommendations (special emphasis on those with financial implications)
5. Adoption of the text to be included in the SCRS 2020 advice to the Commission

2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP MEETING

(Online, 3 September 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Review of Task 1 catches (to be included in the Executive Summary)
2. Adoption of the Eastern and Western Bluefin tuna Executive Summaries
3. Work plan for 2021
4. Recommendations (special emphasis on those with financial implications - GBYP)
5. Responses to the Commission [Rec. 19-04, paras. 4, 18/19, 28, 33, 83, 89, 114 and, Annex 9, item (vi) and [Rec. 19-07, paras. 4, 17 and 18]
6. Adoption of the text to be included in the SCRS 2020 advice to the Commission

**2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS
MEETING** (Online, 4 September 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of fisheries and biological data submitted during 2020, including historical Task 1 and 2 revisions*
3. Summary of Secretariat's standard (yearly based) datasets estimations
4. Brief overview of data deficiencies pursuant to Rec. 05-09
5. Brief overview of ICCAT Online Management System (IOMS) work
6. Data dissemination policy
7. Work plan for 2021
8. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
9. Adoption of the report

* The deadline for submitting revisions on historical Task 1 and 2 data is **15 August 2020** (16:30, Madrid time)

2020 TENTATIVE AGENDA OF THE TROPICAL TUNAS SPECIES GROUP MEETING
(Online, 7-9 September 2020, 12:00-16:30 Madrid time)

1. Brief review of progress made under AOTTP and future research activities (AOTTP exit strategy)
2. Work plan for 2021
3. Recommendations (special emphasis on those with financial implications)
4. Responses to the Commission
5. Adoption of the text to be included in the SCRS 2020 advice to the Commission

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meetings will be held **Online** between **31 August** and **9 September 2020**. Meetings will be held from approximately **12:00-16:30 CET** (Madrid time) to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Sub-Committee on Statistics:

Acting Convener:

Guillermo Diaz (Guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov)

Secretariat contact:

Carlos Palma (carlos.palma@iccat.int)

Species Groups:

Coordinator and rapporteurs for the Swordfish Species Group:

Rui Coelho (rpcoelho@ipma.pt) – Coordinator

George Tserpes (gtserpes@hcmr.gr) – Rapporteur for the Mediterranean stock

Kyle Gillespie (kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) – Rapporteur for the Northern Atlantic stock

Denham Parker (denhamparker@gmail.com) – Rapporteur for the Southern Atlantic stock

Rapporteur for the Sharks Species Group:

Enric Cortés (enric.cortes@noaa.gov)

Coordinator and rapporteurs for the Albacore Species Group:

Haritz Arrizabalaga (harri@azti.es) – Coordinator and rapporteur for the Atlantic stocks

José M^a Ortiz de Urbina (urbina@ieo.es) – Rapporteur for the Mediterranean stock

Coordinator and rapporteurs for the Bluefin tuna Species Group:

Gary Melvin (Gary.Melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) – Coordinator

Ana Gordoia (gordoia@ceab.csic.es) – Rapporteur for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock

John Walter (john.f.walter@noaa.gov) – Rapporteur for the Western Atlantic stock

Coordinator and rapporteurs for the Tropical Tunas Species Group:

David Die (ddie@rsmas.miami.edu) – Coordinator and rapporteur for Bigeye tuna stock

Shannon Cass-Calay (shannon.calay@noaa.gov) – Rapporteur for the Yellowfin tuna stock

Paulo Travassos (pautrax@hotmail.com) – Rapporteur for the Western Skipjack stock

Justin Amandé (monin.amande@yahoo.fr) – Rapporteur for the Eastern Skipjack stock

Secretariat contact:

Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)

Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int)

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

Due to the short time available and the limited number of agenda items to be covered, participants are encouraged to **only submit scientific papers relevant to the meeting**. 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 miguel.santos@iccat.int (Species Group meetings) and carlos.palma@iccat.int (Sub-Committee on Statistics, at least **one week before the start of the meeting**. 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 **26 August and 2 September 2020** at the latest, for the one day meetings and the Tropical Tuna Species Group meeting, respectively. Early 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 meetings 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 **26 August 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 participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.