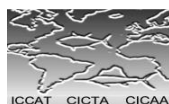


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 18 August 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5696 / 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP *(Online, 28-30 September 2020)*

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Second Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group will be held online from 28 - 30 September 2020.

Attached, please find the meeting objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about organization. This announcement will also be published on the [current meetings page](#) of our website. All ICCAT scientists can attend the meeting, but it will be extremely technical in nature. Therefore, as stated by the SCRS, only a small group is required.

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 **18 September 2020**. Participants shall also register for the meeting using the online registration form available in the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **21 September 2020**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2020 2ND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP
(Online, 28 - 30 September 2020)

Objectives

The September Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group meeting is tasked with technical review of progress related to the MSE focusing on the progress related to Operating models and robustness tests, initial candidate management procedure development and tuning and planning for the next steps of the MSE. This meeting takes the place of the previously scheduled developers meeting in St Andrews and the 2-day meeting prior to the September Species Group meetings, due to the need of the Bluefin tuna Species Group to focus on the assessment during these times. The meeting will not have any authority to make final decisions, rather its purpose is to prepare material for the next BFT intersessional meeting.

Tentative Agenda

1. Normal introductory items
2. Matters arising from report of July meeting
3. Consultant's update on work since July meeting
 - 3.1 TSD finalisation
 - 3.2 Coding of robustness trials
 - 3.2.1 General
 - 3.2.2 Finalisation of "Brazilian catches" trial
 - 3.3 Shinyapp development
4. Progress of developers on CMP refinement
 - 4.1 Report by each developer
 - 4.2 Comparison of results using Shinyapp
 - 4.3 Discussion
5. Towards grid finalisation
 - 5.1 Consideration of further "does it matter" contributions
 - 5.2 Interim grid first revision
 - 5.2.1 Axes to include
 - 5.2.2 Factors on each axis
6. Development tuning
 - 6.1 Specification of a set of targets
 - 6.2 Discussion related to next steps by CMP developers
7. Plausibility
 - 7.1 Discussion of process suggested at February meeting
 - 7.2 First steps in implementation of that process
8. Culling of CMPs
 - 8.1 Initial discussion of basis to undertake this
9. Interactions with the Commission and other stakeholders
10. Workplan
11. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meetings will be held Online between 28-30 September (Monday to Wednesday) 2020. Meeting hours will be approximately from **12:00-16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Co-Chair of Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group:

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

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Doug Butterworth (doug.butterworth@uct.ac.za)

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Secretariat contact: Ai Kimoto (ai.kimoto@iccat.int)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

C/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor, Madrid 28002, 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, 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 **21 September 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 **21 September 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 **18 September 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**.