

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, 13 October 2020

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 6990 / 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 3RD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP (*online, 1 – 3 December 2020*)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 3rd Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Species Group will be held online from 1-3 December 2020.

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

For the purposes of organizing the online meeting in advance of the session, in particular, with regard to the number of participants, I would appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will attend in the meeting by **21 November 2020**. Participants shall also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **24 November 2020**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

2020 3RD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 1 - 3 December 2020)

Objectives

The focus of the meeting may be on several decision points for the MSE. These include possibly adopting the reference grid and the approach to plausibility as well as decisions regarding GBYP future activities including consideration of the advice from the external peer review of the aerial survey. This meeting will also discuss how to identify the pool of scientists who will conduct the initial poll for plausibility weighting.

The objectives of this bluefin tuna intersessional meeting are as follows:

1. Agree on the reference grid, as near as possible
2. Agree to the protocols and guidelines for plausibility weighting the reference grid
3. Address several GBYP matters, including consideration of the external review of the Aerial Survey and 2020 activities and workplan

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements and assignment of rapporteurs
2. Brief presentation of September meeting bullet points
3. Outline/identified patterns on robustness OM conditioning reports
4. Update from CMP developers on progress and summarization of development tuning
5. Updated results of the importance of OM reference grid factors
6. Discussion on grid finalization and possible reconditioning
 - 6.1. Existing grid factors and levels
 - 6.2. Proposals for revisions to the reference grid - possibly considering a robustness test
 - 6.3. Grid finalization and the timing of reconditioning
7. Plausibility weighting of OMs
 - 7.1. BFT MSE TG presents initial approach for plausibility weighting to BFT SG
 - 7.2. Agree to protocols and guidelines for plausibility weighting
 - 7.3. Agree on which axes are to be scored and how scoring would be conducted
 - 7.4. Develop online 'poll'
8. Path forward
 - 8.1. Any revisions to BFT Workplan
 - 8.2. MSE roadmap
9. GBYP matters
 - 9.1. GBYP aerial survey: Overview of the external advice
 - 9.2. Information on GBYP Phase 11 proposal to the EU
 - 9.3. Additional information regarding other GBYP matters (time permitting)
10. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 1-3 December (Tuesday to Thursday) 2020. Meeting hours will be approximately from **12:00-16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

Ana Gordo (gordo@ceab.csic.es)
Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes (CEAB – CSIC),
Acc. Cala St. Francesc, 14, 17300 Blanes,
Girona, Spain
Tel: +34 972 336101

John Walter (john.f.walter@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Center,
Sustainable Fisheries Division,
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami,
Florida 33149, USA
Tel: +1 305 365 4114, Fax: +1 305 361 4562

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 **24 November 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 **24 November 2020** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the Online platform. **Online registration** is through the ICCAT [current meetings page](#) or [Registration form](#). All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the meeting shall notify in advance their Head Delegate or Head Scientist to ensure that they are **included in the official list**, which must be sent to the Secretariat by **21 November 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**.