



Madrid, 13 December 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 9103 / 2019

SUBJECT: 2020 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP (*Madrid, Spain, 24 - 28 February 2020*)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group will be held 24 - 28 February 2020, at the ICCAT Secretariat, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached, please find the meeting objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about their organization. This announcement will also be published on the current meetings page of our web site. This meeting can be attended by any ICCAT scientist, but it will be extremely technical in nature, as stated by the SCRS, and only a small group is required.

I would appreciate very much if you could distribute this announcement to relevant scientists.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel



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Attachment: Objectives, Tentative Agendas and Information for participants.

2020 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP
(Madrid, Spain, 24 - 28 February 2020)

Objectives

The February Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group meeting is tasked with technical review of Operating Models (OMs), code and diagnostics that have been modified and updated since September 2019, at the Bluefin Tuna Species Group. The results of this meeting will be discussed during the April intersessional meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group to be held in Madrid, 20-24 April 2020. The meeting will not have any authority to make final decisions, rather its purpose is to prepare the material required by the April intersessional meeting.

Participants

The SCRS has requested the following experts to attend the meeting: the Contractor, BFT MSE Technical Group rapporteur (D. Butterworth), SCRS Chair (G. Melvin), BFT Species Group chairs (A. Gordo and J. Walter), Secretariat staff (A. Kimoto), rapporteur (C. Fernandes) with 2 people (S.P. Cox and H. Arrizabalaga) for which funding from the GBYP is to be sought. However, the meeting is open to any delegate nominated by ICCAT CPCs.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of developments since the September Bluefin Tuna Species Group meeting
3. Review of results for conditioning of OMs for the interim grid and associated robustness tests
4. Recommendations, based on discussions under 3), regarding the acceptability of the conditioning and for possible changes to the interim grid specifications
5. Re-selection of the indices to be projected into the future for use as inputs to CMPs, together with specification of their error structure for use in their generation in simulations
6. Review of codes and Trial Specifications document modifications required
7. Provide suggestions for approaches (e.g. a Delphi method) to plausibility-weight OMs for review at the April intersessional meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Species Group
8. Work plan leading up to April meeting, including consideration of provision of an updated package for CMP developers
9. Adoption of the report

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held from 24-28 February (Monday to Friday) 2020 (registration starts at 08:30 am, on 24 February). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: c/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain.

2. Contact information

Co-Chair of Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group:

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

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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 **17 February 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. Funding

No financial assistance will be available for this meeting.

6. Hotel information

A list of recommended hotels is available on the ICCAT [website](#).