



Madrid - 20 December 2019

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 9237/2019

**SUBJECT: 2020 ICCAT SWORDFISH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**  
(Madrid, Spain, 16-20 March 2020)

I would like to inform you that the 2020 Swordfish Intersessional Meeting will be held on 16 to 20 March 2020, at the ICCAT headquarters in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the 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 web site.

In order to have an estimate of 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 **9 March 2020**.

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

**Attachment:** Objectives, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

**2020 ICCAT SWORDFISH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**  
*(Madrid, Spain – 16-20 March 2020)*

**Objectives**

In 2019 the SCRS elaborated a workplan for 2020 which included an intersessional meeting for the Swordfish Species Group, with the major focus on the progress of the swordfish biological and stock structure projects, and the development of the North Atlantic swordfish MSE process. The MSE work planned for 2020 is to finalize the conditioning of the Operating Model and to start testing alternative management procedures.

The SCRS also planned to conduct the next stock assessment for the Mediterranean stock in May 2020. Therefore, this meeting will address data preparatory issues related to Mediterranean swordfish in advance to the stock assessment meeting.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics
  - 2.1. Task I (catches) data
  - 2.2. Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data
  - 2.3. Tagging data
3. Data preparation for the next stock assessment of the swordfish Mediterranean
  - 3.1. Review of biology
  - 3.2. Review of fisheries indicators
  - 3.3. Identification of data inputs, appropriate stock assessment approaches, and their specifications
4. Review of work done in 2019 on North Atlantic Swordfish MSE
5. Further development of the MSE workplan and roadmap for ICCAT North Atlantic Swordfish MSE process
  - 5.1 Implications of the new MSE roadmap adopted by the Commission
  - 5.2 Discussion on finalizing the reference set of OMs
  - 5.3 Discussion on start testing of candidate management procedures
6. Progress on the Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish Project and other work related to the workplans
  - 6.1 Stock structure (based on genetics, morphology and tagging data)
  - 6.2 Age and growth
  - 6.3 Movements
  - 6.4 Size/sex distribution
7. Plan for the ongoing and future activities of the Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish Project
8. Other matters
9. Recommendations
10. Adoption of Report and Closure

## **Additional information for participants**

### **1. Date and venue**

The meeting will be held from 16 to 20 March (Monday to Friday) 2020 (registration starts at 08:30 am, on 16 March). 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**

Chair of Swordfish Species Group: Rui Coelho (rpcoelho@ipma.pt)  
Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA),  
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Tel: +351 289 700 504, Fax: +351 289 700 535

Rapporteur of Mediterranean Swordfish: George Tserpes (gtserpes@hcmr.gr)  
Hellenic Center for Marine Research, PO Box 2214  
71003 Heraklion, Poros, Greece  
Tel: +30 2810337851

Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@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, Spanish or French.

### **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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **9 March 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**

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data.

According with the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **31 January 2020**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building is available on the ICCAT [website](#). It is highly recommended to visit this web page in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is necessary to fully complete the invitation form including explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting and how it relates to the meeting objectives.

## **6. Hotel information**

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