

ICCAT Shark Research and Data Collection Program

Workshop on Reproductive and Other Life History Aspects of the Porbeagle and Other Pelagic Sharks in the Atlantic Ocean

Location: IPMA, Olhão, Portugal

Dates: February 3-7, 2020

Background: A porbeagle stock assessment session will be held in June 2020. In preparation for that assessment and given that there will be no Data Preparatory meeting, there is a need to review in advance key biological input data for porbeagle, with emphasis on reproductive biology information that is being gathered and analyzed through ongoing collaborative work (in line with Rec 15-06) under the auspices of the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP), specifically to fill gaps in key reproductive parameters for the species. We thus propose to hold an expert workshop to address these issues. To take advantage of this gathering of experts, a secondary objective of the meeting will be to review reproductive information that may be available for other species of pelagic sharks (e.g., for shortfin makos) and provide an update on the age and growth study of the South Atlantic shortfin mako.

Tentative agenda:

- Provide a protocol for standardization of reproductive studies of porbeagle and other pelagic sharks
- Describe the reproductive cycle of the porbeagle
- Identify median age and size at maturity as well as age at first reproduction for porbeagle
- Develop reproductive ogives for porbeagle
- Define the breeding frequency for porbeagle and describe the methodology used to determine breeding frequency in general
- Provide an update of the ageing study for South Atlantic shortfin makos and identify future steps

Funding:

Financial support is limited to selected experts. The number of participants will be limited due to logistics constraints.