

## **ICCAT Small Tunas sampling and biology workshop**

**INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE OCENOGRAFÍA- Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga, Spain, 17-21 February 2020**

### **DRAFT AGENDA**

#### **Background and objectives**

The Small Tunas Species Group initiated in 2012 a fishery and biological sample collection programme to collect biological data for priority species of SMT (LTA, WAH, BON), aiming to improve knowledge of the stock structure, age and growth rate, age at maturation, maturation rate, spawning season and location. The main aim of this research is to contribute and advance in the assessment of these species, by permitting the development of more spatially and biologically realistic population models used in both Atlantic and Mediterranean populations assessments.

As part of this initiative, a Workshop is planned to take place in February 2020, with the major objectives of 1) start the creation of ageing and reproduction reference sets and 2) provide more training for the ongoing sample collection and processing to the teams involved in these studies.

To accomplish the objectives of the workshop, there is the need to have already some processed samples of spines and gonads, in order to use those for the reference sets. As such, the respective task coordinators on ageing and reproduction are urged to have some samples already processed in order to make them available to the group by the time of the workshop.

#### **Agenda (tentative)**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Nomination of the rapporteurs
4. Revision/update of sampling and biological data collection protocols
5. Revision/update of protocols for reproductive samples processing and data analysis
  - 5.1. Reproductive biology, incl. macroscopic vs histological scales
6. Revision/update of protocols for ageing samples processing and data analysis
  - 6.1. Ageing, incl. spines vs. otoliths
7. Initial steps for the establishment of reference sets
8. Training for age readings and maturity stage assignation to the teams involved in these studies
9. Workshop report and adoption
10. Closure