

**COLLABORATIVE WORK TO ASSESS SEA TURTLE BYCATCH IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FLEETS
(SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SEA)**
(Workshop II, Malaga, Spain, January 27 to 31, 2020)

Background and objectives of the workshop

Collaborative work to assess sea turtle bycatch in the pelagic longline fleets operating in the South Atlantic Ocean (SAO) from an entirely scientific perspective was initiated in April 2018 by researchers from several national fleets. A meeting on this process was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from April 16 to 20, 2018 (Workshop I) and had participants from Brazil, Japan and Uruguay. The participants acknowledged that this meeting was an important starting point to construct future collaborative works on sea turtles with many countries involved in the ICCAT-SCECO. In that meeting, the participants discussed future goals of this process, defined minimum data required by country and integrated data to produce preliminary analyses. Currently, it is expected to incorporate the Mediterranean Sea in this process. The main expected outputs for workshop II in Malaga, Spain, (January 27 to 31, 2020) are: 1) to integrate data from several countries and produce a preliminary assessment of the sea turtle bycatch in the pelagic longline (and data permitting, purse seine) fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, 2) to produce a plan for an estimate of the total sea turtle bycatch by species in the pelagic longline (and data permitting, purse seine) fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and 3) to discuss on how to address other goals (impact of bycatch and effectiveness of mitigation measures) established in Workshop I.

Draft agenda

Day 1. Monday 27

Morning

Introduction to the project and discussion.

Discussion about confidentiality of data.

Description of the data available (short presentation of the data of each participant).

Plan for data analyses.

Afternoon

Integrate data. Data analysis (proposed aim: preliminary integrated assessment of the sea turtle bycatch (species level) in the pelagic longline (and data permitting, purse seine) fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea).

Days 2 and 3. Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29

Data analysis (proposed aim: assessment of the sea turtle bycatch in the pelagic longline (and data permitting, purse seine) fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea).

Day 4. Thursday 30

Discussion and drafting of results. Expected outcome: Draft with Objectives, Methods, Results (analyses, figures and tables), Discussion and an agreed Conclusion, to present in a paper (scientific journal and the next relevant ICCAT meeting).

Day 5. Afternoon Friday 31

Discussion on a work plan to produce total sea turtle bycatch by species in the pelagic longline (and data permitting, purse seine) fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Discussion on how to address other goals (impact of bycatch and effectiveness of mitigation measures) established in the previous workshop.