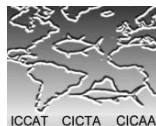


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 25 January 2021

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0443/2021

**SUBJECT: 2021 ICCAT SWORDFISH BIOLOGY WORKSHOP**  
(online, 22-26 March 2021)

I would like to inform you that the 2021 ICCAT Swordfish Biology Workshop will be held online between 22 and 26 March 2021.

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the workshop 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 workshop. This announcement will also be published on the [current meetings page](#) of our website.

In order to organize the online workshop in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of participants, I would also appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the workshop by **10 March 2021**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **12 March 2021**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

### DISTRIBUTION:

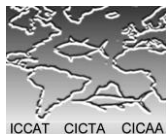
- **Commission Officers:**

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
Chairs of Panels 1 to 4			
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.



## 2021 ICCAT SWORDFISH BIOLOGY WORKSHOP

*(Online, 22-26 March 2021)*

### **Background and objectives**

As approved by the SCRS in 2017, the Swordfish Species Group initiated in 2018 a biological sample collection programme to collect biological data for swordfish (SWO), aiming to improve knowledge of the stock distribution, age and gender of the catch, growth rate, age at maturation, maturation rate, spawning season and location and diet. This will contribute to the next major advance in the assessment of swordfish status, by permitting the development of more spatially and biologically realistic population models used in both Atlantic and Mediterranean populations assessments and within the ICCAT Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish.

A first workshop was carried out in 2019 mostly to discuss and standardize sampling collection and processing protocols. We now plan another workshop to focus mostly on: 1) assessing the status of the project various tasks and the remaining sampling needs; 2) establishment of reference sets for ageing and maturity; and 3) plans for the project future steps.

### **Agenda (tentative)**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Nomination of the rapporteurs
4. Status update of the ICCAT swordfish project
5. Update of the sample collection and sample processing
  - 5.1 Ageing (spines and otoliths)
  - 5.2 Reproduction
  - 5.3 Genetics
6. Establishment of reference sets, with regards to
  - 6.1 Ageing (incl. spines and otoliths)
  - 6.2 Reproduction biology (macroscopic and histological scales)
7. Discussion
  - 7.1 Discussion on any future sampling needs
  - 7.2 Discussion and plans for sample processing completion and data analysis
  - 7.3 Discussion on any other priority areas for the project
8. Workshop report and adoption
9. Closure

## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The workshop will be held online between 22 and 26 March 2021. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences.

### 2. Contact information

Chair: Rui Coelho ([rpcoelho@ipma.pt](mailto:rpcoelho@ipma.pt)), Swordfish Coordinator  
Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA)  
Division of Modelling and Management of Fishery Resources  
Av. 5 de Outubro s/n, 8700-305 Olhão, Portugal

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  
28002 Madrid, 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.

### 4. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the workshop by **12 March 2021** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the online platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the ICCAT [current meetings page](#) or [Registration form](#). All delegates from CPCs wishing to attend the meeting must notify in advance their Head Delegate or Head Scientist to ensure they are included in the official list that is to be sent to the Secretariat by **10 March 2021**.

### 5. Online settings

All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the workshop**.