INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 28 January 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0548/2021

SUBJECT: GBYP CLOSE-KIN WORKSHOP *(ONLINE, 8-9 FEBRUARY 2021)*

I would like to inform you that GBYP Close-kin Workshop will be held online between 8 and 9 February 2021.

Attached please find the background, objective and 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 with regard to the number of participants, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the workshop by **5 February 2021**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on current meetings page of our website by **5 February 2021**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Objective, Tentative Agenda and Information for participants.

GBYP CLOSE-KIN WORKSHOP
(online, 8-9 February 2021)

Background

Genetic Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) uses the frequency of closely related individuals (e.g. parent-offspring, siblings) to estimate absolute number or exploitation rate, either of which can be directly used in stock assessments or harvest control rules.

In 2016, ICCAT GBYP contracted for an initial feasibility study for Eastern Atlantic Bluefin tuna (EBFT) with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, which is the institution that developed the CKMR application for Southern Bluefin tuna. The report stated that CKMR was potentially feasible for EBFT, assuming it was possible to: (i) increase annual sample sizes of tissue, otolith and length samples; (ii) distinguish between individuals of eastern and western origin; and (iii) implement high quality sample processing and data management to minimise genotyping errors. The study also recommended holding a workshop focusing on genetic techniques before following up with the next phase of the feasibility study.

However, due to the need to further review the technique and its application to EBFT and concerns regarding feasibility of sampling, the genetic workshop and the second part of the feasibility study were postponed. Recent developments now warrant revisiting CKMR for EBFT, based on the initial success of a pilot study applied to Western Atlantic Bluefin, advances in genetic techniques to distinguish stock of origin and improvements in biological sampling. Hence GBYP Steering Committee (SC) decided to convene a workshop to further evaluate the feasibility of implementing a CKMR study for EBFT. A presential workshop was planned to be held in 2020, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an alternative the GBYP SC has decided to organize an online workshop.

Objective

The specific objective is to evaluate the financial, logistic and scientific feasibility of implementing a CKMR study for EBFT. The outputs from this workshop will be presented and discussed within the Intersessional Meeting of the SCRS BFT Species Group, to be held in April 2021, with the aim of issuing research recommendations that could be considered by the SCRS and the Commission.

Participants

The target participants are CKMR methodology developers and researchers with direct experience in its application in other BFT stocks, as well experts in EBFT stock genetics and biological sampling. However, the workshop is open to any interested SCRS scientists.

Agenda (tentative)

1. Opening
2. Introductory talk on CKMR methodology
3. Examples of application of CKMR methodology in bluefin tuna stocks
4. Open discussion on the feasibility of the implementation of a CKRM for EBFT stock
5. Workshop report and adoption
6. Closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The workshop will be held online between 8 and 9 February 2021. Meeting hours will be from **22:00 – 24:00 CET** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Secretariat Contact: Francisco Alemany(francisco.alemany@iccat.int)
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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 **5 February 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 that they are included in the official list that will be sent to the Secretariat by **5 February 2021**.

5. Online settings

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