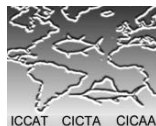


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 29 January 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0559/2021

SUBJECT: 2021 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE BILLFISH SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 8 - 12 March 2021)

I would like to inform you that the 2021 Intersessional meeting of the Billfish Species Group will be held online between 8 and 12 March 2021.

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

In order to organize the online meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of participants, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **26 February 2021**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **1 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
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair:	R. Coelho
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.

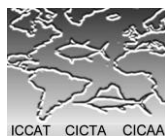


2021 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE BILLFISH SPECIES
(Online, 8 – 12 March 2021)

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Advances on CPUE standardization for billfishes
 - a. Review and consideration of electronic components that may have affect catchability in sport and recreational fisheries over time
 - b. Exploration of billfish Joint CPUE analysis with fine scale operational data from longline fleets
 - c. Comparison and review of observer vs. logbook CPUE indices by national fleets
3. Review of the ongoing activities within Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research (EPBR) and new relevant scientific information on billfishes
4. Workplan including the activities within the EPBR and other activities for 2021
5. Recommendations
6. Responses to the Commission (Rec. 19-05, para 16, 17 and 21, others derived from 2020 Commission if any)
7. Other matters

* An annotated agenda will be circulated by the Chair during the week before the start of the meeting, which will include the schedule for the different agenda items.



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 8 and 12 March 2021. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET (UTC +1)** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting: Dr Fambaye Ngom Sow (famngom@yahoo.com)

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye,
CRODT/ISRA, LNERV -Route du Front de Terre - BP 2241 Dakar
Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262,

Secretariat contact: Dr Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int)

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor, Madrid 28002, 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. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents, which were revised in 2015. These deadlines provide the rapporteurs with valuable information to better fit the meeting timetable as well as allow the Secretariat to make the documents available to participants in advance of the meeting. In 2015 and 2019 the SCRS "proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations should be implemented; these documents/presentations should be provided in their entirety at least one week before the meeting in which they are to be presented to facilitate their review by participating scientists prior to these meetings". As such the full documents and presentations for this meeting should be provided to info@iccat.int or mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **1 March 2021**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by the Chair. Authors are reminded to closely follow the *Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series*. Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **1 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 that they are included in the official list that must be sent to the Secretariat by **26 February 2021**.



6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Microsoft Teams application for the online meetings. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Teams Hardware requirements](#). We strongly suggest using headphones with a microphone to be able to hear and speak comfortably during the meeting.

A brief and clear introduction of the application can be found at: [Teams-overview](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.