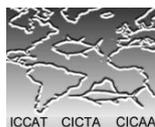


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 24 February 2021

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1153/2021

**SUBJECT: 2021 BIGEYE TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING**  
(Online, 22 - 30 April 2021)

I would like to inform you that the 2021 Bigeye tuna data preparatory meeting of the Tropical Species Group will be held online between 22 and 30 April 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 **15 April 2021**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **15 April 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
Panel 1-4 Chairs			
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.



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## 2021 BIGEYE TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING

(Online, 22 – 30 April 2021)

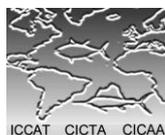
### Objectives

The SCRS will attempt to include data up to 2020 during the 2021 assessment of bigeye tuna. For that to occur, sufficient data will need to be provided by CPCs prior to the data preparatory meeting in April 2021. This data needs to be available two weeks prior to the data preparatory meeting. If such data is not available, then the assessment will proceed with data up to 2019 and any data obtained for 2020 will only be used in projections. The same assessment model type (SS3) and uncertainty grid as used in the 2018 assessment will be used in 2021. Updates of relevant biological parameters and relative abundance indices not used during the 2018 assessment will be considered. However, at a minimum, the relative abundance indices used during the 2018 assessment will need to be updated. There will be little time and few resources to make large modifications to the model structure and nature of data inputs in the period between the data preparatory meeting and the assessment meeting.

### Tentative Agenda\*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of the progress of AOTTP (excluding analysis of biological data)
3. Review of historical and new data on bigeye biology (including analysis of AOTTP data)
  - 3.1. Age and growth
  - 3.2. Natural mortality
  - 3.3. Reproduction and sex-ratio
  - 3.4. Length-weight relationship and its variability
  - 3.5. Movement and stock structure
4. Review of fishery statistics
  - 4.1. Task 1 (catches) data
  - 4.2. Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
5. Fishery indicators
  - 5.1. Average weight by gear type
  - 5.2. Spatial distribution of catches with special attention to FAD closures
6. Estimation of catch-at-size and catch-at-age
7. Indices of relative abundance
  - 7.1. For individual fleets
  - 7.2. Combined indices
8. Specifications of data inputs required for the different assessment models and advice framework
9. Research recommendations
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

\* 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.



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## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 22 and 30 April 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 David Die ([ddie@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:ddie@rsmas.miami.edu))  
Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies  
University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Cswy, 33149, Miami USA  
Tel: +1 305 421 4607

Secretariat contact: Dr Mauricio Ortiz ([mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto: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.

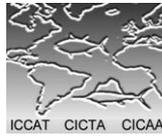
### 4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int) by **14 April 2021**. Documents and presentations provided after this 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit Task 1 or Task 2 data (including estimations of *faux poisson*) until the year 2020 two weeks before the beginning of the meeting (**8 April 2021**).

Main longline and surface fleets are requested to update standardized bigeye CPUE indices until 2020. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series. Parties should submit the indices of abundance one week before the meeting. In this way the authors of CPUEs together with the Chair and the Secretariat will prepare a tentative CPUE evaluation table in advance to the meeting.



## 6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **15 April 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 their Head Delegate or Head Scientist in advance to ensure that they are included in the official list that must be sent to the Secretariat by **15 April 2021**.

## 7. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Zoom application for online meetings. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Zoom 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: [Zoom-overview](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All duly registered participants **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.