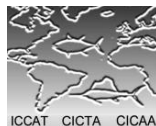


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 24 February 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1154/2021

SUBJECT: 2021 TROPICAL TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING
(Online, 29 - 31 March 2021)

I would like to inform you that the 2021 Tropical Tuna MSE Technical Group meeting will be held online between 29 and 31 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 **22 March 2021**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **22 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
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.



2021 TROPICAL TUNA MSE TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

(Online, 29 – 31 March 2021)

Background

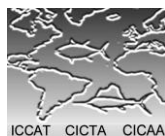
In 2020, the SCRS reviewed the progress of the tropical tunas MSE process. At the July meeting, it was discussed that there was a priority to define the major uncertainties to be considered in the multispecies MSE (BET, YFT, E-SKJ stocks), and also the phases remaining from the project initiated in 2018. It was clarified that the MSE plan should be linked to the revised stock assessment schedule. It was noted that a technical meeting for the MSE would be necessary to make progress on the MSE and has been included for the 2021/22 workplan.

Due to time constraints and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCRS was not able to develop additional work on the multispecies Tropical tunas MSE (Bigeye, Yellowfin and Eastern Skipjack stocks) in 2020, nor the revision of the roadmap adopted by the Commission in 2019. Therefore, it was decided that a technical meeting would be held in early 2021 to revise the roadmap. In addition, the focus will also be to identify the major sources of uncertainty to be considered for the Multispecies MSE.

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. State of development of MSE operating models
 - 2.1. Western SKJ
 - 2.2. East
 - 2.2.1. Stock specific YFT, BET, SKJ
 - 2.2.2. Multi-stock
3. Major axis of uncertainty for operating models
4. Performance metrics
5. Update of roadmap
 - 5.1. Process (including single-stock vs. multi-stock)
 - 5.2. Communication
 - 5.3. Capacity building
6. Research recommendations
7. Other matters
8. 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.



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 29 and 31 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 David Die (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 Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@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 nathan.taylor@iccat.int by **22 March 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. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **22 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 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 **22 March 2021**.



6. 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**.