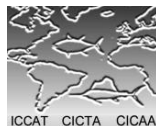


INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO

Madrid, 10 March 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1591/2021

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL WORKPLAN FOR PANEL 4

Please find attached the Tentative Agenda and intersessional workplan received from the Chair of Panel 4. Given the importance of reaching agreement on North Atlantic shortfin mako this year, all CPCs are encouraged to engage in bilateral and multilateral consultations in advance of the meeting.

Draft proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than **14 May 2021**. All documents will be published in an ownCloud folder at <https://meetings.iccat.int/index.php/s/BsbDknaXlo8EbsK>. Access to this folder will be made available through the ICCAT web site <https://www.iccat.int/en/Meetings.html> as soon as documents become available.

I should like to take this opportunity to also remind all CPCs that the Task 1 data for North Atlantic shortfin mako for 2020 should be submitted no later than **4 June 2021**.

Further information on the format, meeting arrangements and registration will be circulated in due course.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Members of Panel 4**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Letter from the Chair of Panel 4.
Tentative Agenda and Workplan.

Dear Colleagues

In accordance with the instructions of the Commission Chair in his letter of 15 February 2021 (ICCAT Circular 959/21; document PLE-147), please find attached a workplan for Panel 4 for the coming intersessional period, as well as the tentative Agenda for the intersessional meeting.

It is essential that we reach an agreement on North Atlantic shortfin mako this year, and I would therefore strongly urge all CPCs to engage in bilateral and multilateral consultations in advance of the meeting to try to resolve differences or to reach a compromise position. This is especially important as the possibility of an in-person meeting is still unclear, and we may have to meet virtually.

In order to ensure a smooth and transparent process, I would also ask all of you to respect the deadlines in the workplan. Any CPCs wishing to make position statements are welcome to do so but should ensure that these are in accordance with the deadlines and the guidelines which will be issued by the Secretariat nearer to the meeting time. Similarly, if submitting any information other than draft proposals for circulation to Panel 4 members, please be as concise as possible.

I should like to assure you that I, in my capacity as Panel 4 Chair, will be available to assist you as much as I can in this process.

I look forward to working with you all and to coming to constructive conclusion in July.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Panel 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabio Hazin', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Fabio Hazin

TENTATIVE AGENDA
INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4
(6-8 July 2020)

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Review of current information on the state of the North Atlantic Shortfin Mako stock and 2019/2020 catch levels
5. Consideration of possible measures to achieve conservation of North Atlantic shortfin mako
6. Consideration of any additional mechanisms required to ensure the collection and provision of data
7. Development of appropriate requests for future work by the SCRS
8. Review of progress on northern swordfish MSE process
9. Consideration of criteria for granting exemptions to the submission of shark and billfish check sheets, including frequency of exemptions
10. Other matters
 - 10.1 Possible use of Ecosystem Report Card by Panel 4
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR PANEL 4

Agenda item / date		Deadline										
		April	May			June					July	
		April	14 May	21 May	31 May	4 June	11 June	15 June	22 June	29 June	2 July	6 to 8 July
registration/ meeting										Final date for registration		Meeting
4	<i>Review of current information on the state of the North Atlantic Shortfin Mako stock and 2019 /2020 catch levels</i>					2020 Data to be submitted by all CPCs				2019 and 2020 data to be uploaded on cloud		
5	<i>Measures to achieve conservation of North Atlantic shortfin mako</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence.	First drafts of proposed Recommendations to be submitted	Draft Recommendations to be posted in three languages	Deadline for first round of comments on Draft proposals	Revised proposals (version A) to be posted	Deadline for second round of comments on Draft proposals	Revised (B version) proposals to be posted		Deadline for last round of pre-meeting comments on Draft proposals	Final drafts (version C) to be posted for discussion during meeting	
6	<i>Additional mechanisms required to ensure the collection and provision of data</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence.	May be included in proposals under 4 above									

7	<i>Requests for future work by the SCRS</i>	CPCs encouraged to make bilateral and multilateral contacts regarding main points of divergence	May be included in proposals under item 4 above								Additional requests to the SCRS on the basis of available reports/ data should be submitted in writing for discussion at meeting	
8	<i>Progress on Northern Swordfish MSE process</i>							SWO rapporteur/SCRS Chair to submit extract of report on update of N-SWO MSE	N-SWO MSE extract to be posted in three languages	Questions to SCRS should be submitted in writing for clarification during meeting		

9	<i>Criteria for granting exemptions to the submission of shark and billfish check sheets, including frequency of exemptions</i>		First drafts of proposals to be submitted	Draft proposal to be posted in 3 languages	Deadline for first round of comments on Draft criteria	Revised criteria (version A) to be posted	Deadline for second round of comments on Draft criteria	Revised criteria (version B) to be posted				
10	<i>Possible use of Ecosystem Report Card by Panel 4</i>					SCRS paper to be posted on the work carried out on the Ecosystem Report Card	Deadline for comments/questions on the SCRS Ecosystem Report Card			Clarifications from the SCRS to the questions (if any) to be posted		