



Madrid, 6 April 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2163/2021

SUBJECT: 2021 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS
(Online, 5-10 May 2021)

I would like to inform you that the *2021 Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Ecosystems* will be held online on 5-7 May 2021 with a final day, on 10 May 2021 for adoption of the report.

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 **25 April 2021**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause delay on providing access to participants to the meeting and to the related documents. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the current meetings page of our website by **28 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 |
| Chairs Panels 1-4 | | | |
| 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 SUB-COMMITTEE OF ECOSYSTEMS
(Online, 5-10 May 2021)

Objectives

Pertaining to ecosystems

In conjunction with the proposal to develop an Ecosystem report card for ICCAT, the Sub-committee will review progress on the inter-sessional exercise to update the status of the 11 ecosystem components that were identified. The indicators described in the assessments are to form the basis for a revised prototype report card that will be presented to the Commission in 2022. As in 2020, the Sub-committee aims to continue the work required to assess the feasibility of and provide information towards implementing ecosystems-based fisheries management (EBFM) in agreement with Resolution 15-11 and Article IV of the recently amended ICCAT Convention.

Pertaining to by-catch

1. Continue the ongoing collaborative work related to seabirds and marine turtles.
2. Develop a list of by-catch species that are not retained and select the species to be used as indicators.
3. Support the development of indicators for the ecosystem report card and the recommendations of other Working Groups (e.g. Billfishes).

Draft Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Pertaining only to Ecosystems

2. Review the progress on developing an Ecosystem Report Card for ICCAT including the development of status indicators, pressure indicators and reference levels
 - a) Review adequacy of existing indicators against proposed new ones, and progress on the development of methods for screening and validation
 - b) Review development of case studies and ecoregions
3. Review how to improve the reporting of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on the ecosystem
4. Discuss content of presentation to Panel 4 on *“Possible use of Ecosystem Report Card by Panel 4”*
5. Discuss plans for collaborative workshop to discuss the relevance and the methodology used to delineate candidate ecoregions within the ICCAT Convention area in order to foster discussion on operationalizing the EBFM
6. Review progress on establishing a small working Group with a participation of the SCRS Chairs for drafting a revision of the EBFM components of the SCRS strategic work plan for discussion and final adoption in 2021

7. Review how the Commission can develop an informal meeting format for the SCRS to work with managers to progress on SCRS-advisory processes that need more involved input from managers [The Sub-committee, which is currently developing the ecosystem report card, needs more working-level feedback from managers in order to provide the Commission with valuable strategic advice and continue developing advice on EBFM implementation options for ICCAT (i.e. in the development and implementation of assessments and management frameworks that incorporate species interactions, fleets interactions, habitats, environmental drivers and climate change into fisheries management).]
8. Review and adopt definition of “marine mammal interactions” to facilitate indicator development.
9. Review the availability of information on these interactions between marine mammals and ICCAT fisheries.

Pertaining only to By-catch

10. Review progress on collaborative work of sea turtle and presentation the next steps.
11. Review list of by-catch species that are not retained and retained but are not part of the agreement, their importance to the ecosystem and ICCAT species.
12. Effect of the mitigation measures: intra and inter taxa.

Pertaining to Ecosystems and By-catch

13. Review feedback received from Species Groups regarding their needs and contributions towards incorporating/developing ecosystem including by-catch considerations and discuss additional mechanisms to effectively coordinate, integrate and communicate ecosystem-relevant research across the ICCAT Species Groups and within the SCRS.
14. Review mechanisms for SC-Eco to work across all Species Groups of the SCRS on the issues related with multi-species (e.g. environmental impacts, multi-species trade-offs, integration of ecological considerations into management procedures) similar to the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) or the Sub-committee on Statistics.
15. Recommendations
 - a) General recommendations
 - b) Recommendations with financial implications
16. Workplan for 2022
17. Other matters
18. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online on 5-7 May 2021 with a final day, on 10 May 2021 for adoption of the report. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET (UTC +1)** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chairs of the meeting:

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Director Nacional,
Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA,
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497,
11200 Montevideo
Uruguay

Secretariat contact:

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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 **28 April 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 **28 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 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 **25 April 2021**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause delay on providing access to participants to the meeting and to the related documents.

6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Zoom application for the 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 participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.