

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 27 April 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2707 / 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 31 May to 7 June 2021)

I would like to inform you that the *2021 Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group* will be held online between 31 May and 7 June 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 **24 May 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 **26 May 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 SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP

(Online, 31 May to 7 June 2021)

Objectives

In 2020 the SCRS elaborated a workplan for 2021 which included an intersessional meeting for the Swordfish Species Group, with the major focus on the progress of the swordfish biological and stock structure projects, and the development of the North Atlantic swordfish MSE process. The MSE work planned for 2021 is to finalize the conditioning of the Operating Model grid and to start testing alternative management procedures.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics
 - 2.1 Task 1 (catches) data
 - 2.2 Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 2.3 Tagging data
3. Review of work done in 2020 on North Atlantic Swordfish MSE
4. Further development of the MSE workplan and roadmap for ICCAT North Atlantic Swordfish MSE process
 - 4.1 Implications of the new MSE roadmap adopted by the Commission
 - 4.2 Discussion on the MSE code review
 - 4.3 Discussion on finalizing the reference set of OMs
 - 4.4 Discussion on performance metrics
 - 4.5 Discussion on start testing of candidate management procedures
 - 4.6 Proposal on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances
5. Update of the ongoing and future activities of the Atlantic and Mediterranean Swordfish Programme
 - 5.1. Review of the 2021 Swordfish Biology Workshop Report
 - 5.2. Discussion on sampling activities
 - 5.3. Update on ageing and growth analyses
 - 5.4. Update on reproduction and maturity analyses
 - 5.5. Update on genetic analyses
 - 5.6. Project Phase 4 planning and Terms of Reference
6. Workplan for 2021
7. Recommendations
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and Closure

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 31 May and 7 June 2021. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET (UTC +1)** to account for time zone differences. **No meeting** will be held **during the weekend** (5-6 June).

2. Contact information

Chair of Swordfish Species Group: Rui Coelho (rpcoelho@ipma.pt)
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Rapporteur of North Atlantic Swordfish: Kyle Gillespie (kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
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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 miguel.santos@iccat.int by **24 May 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 **26 May 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 **24 May 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**.