



Madrid, 30 April 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2822 / 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP INCLUDING THE MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT (Online, 21-30 June 2021)

I would like to inform you that the 2021 Intersessional meeting of the Albacore Species Group including the Mediterranean Albacore Stock Assessment ONLINE Meeting has been scheduled and will be held between 21 and 30 of June 2021.

Attached please find the objectives, 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 **11 June 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 **14 June 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 ALBACORE SPECIES GROUP
INCLUDING THE MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT**
(Online, 21-30 June 2021)

Objectives

In 2021, the Albacore Species Group plans to assess the Mediterranean stock (last assessed in 2017) and update the management recommendations for this stock.

As for the Northern stock, the tentative adoption of a long-term Management Procedure (MP) is scheduled in 2021 (Rec. 20-04). The Group will also provide feedback to Panel 2 on the exceptional circumstance indicators, and will use these to determine if exceptional circumstances might be occurring. In addition, the Species Group will start working on a new reference case using Stock Synthesis, to be used in future benchmark assessments and revision of the uncertainty grid.

For all three stocks of albacore, the WG will revise research activities to develop updated research plan.

Tentative Agenda*

21-30 June 2021 (working hours 12:00 - 16:30 CET)

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Mediterranean Sea albacore
 - 2.1. Review of fishery statistics (Task 1 and Task 2) for Mediterranean albacore
 - 2.2. Review of available and new information on biology and life-history
 - 2.3. Evaluation of relative indices of abundance for use in the stock assessment
 - 2.4. Mediterranean albacore stock assessment update
 - 2.4.1. Bayesian State-Space Surplus Production Model (JABBA)
 - 2.4.2. Final Stock Status Advice
 - 2.5. Management recommendations for Mediterranean albacore
3. North Atlantic albacore
 - 3.1 Evaluation of exceptional Circumstances using proposed indicators
 - 3.1.1 Catch
 - 3.1.2 CPUEs (Spanish baitboat, Japanese longline, Venezuela longline, US longline, Chinese Taipei longline)
 - 3.2 Towards a new reference case
 - 3.2.1 Data: catch, effort, CPUE, size, tagging, biology
 - 3.2.2 Stock Synthesis model structure
 - 3.2.3 Future work
4. Albacore research program update and proposals:
 - 4.1. North
 - 4.2. South
 - 4.3. Mediterranean
5. Responses to the Commission
 - 5.1. Panel 2 Exceptional Circumstances protocol
6. Recommendations on research and statistics
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 tentative schedule for the different agenda items

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held **Online** between 21 and 30 June 2021. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CET** to account for time zone differences. The meeting will **not take place during the weekend (26-27 June)**.

2. Contact information

Chairs:

Haritz Arrizabalaga (harri@azti.es)
AZTI
Marine Research
Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA)
Herrera Kaia Portualdea z/g 20110 Pasaia, Spain
Tel: +34 667174477

Josetxu Ortiz de Urbina (urbina@ieo.es)
Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades,
Instituto Español de Oceanografía, C.O de Málaga,
Puerto Pesquero s/n, 29640 Fuengirola Málaga, Spain
Tel: +34 952 197 124, Fax: +34 952 463 808

Secretariat contact:

Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor
28002 Madrid, 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

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 mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **14 June 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 to the meeting by **14 June 2021** at the latest. Earlier registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting the online platform. **Online registration** shall be made in the ICCAT [current meetings page Registration form](#). All delegates from CPCs willing to attend the meeting shall notify their Head Delegate or Head Scientist in advance to ensure they are included in the official list that shall be sent to the Secretariat by **11 June 2021**.

6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using **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**.