

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, 21 July 2021

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5516/2021

SUBJECT: 2021 SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 2-9 September 2021)

I would like to inform you that the *2021 Second Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin tuna Species Group* will be held online on 2-9 September 2021.

Attached please find the objectives and 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 **23 August 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 August 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 SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(Online, 2-9 September 2021)

Objectives

1. Further the MSE and develop materials to present to the Commission
2. Draft responses to the Commission, particularly regarding management advice and growth in farms and best catch rate table
3. Draft Executive Summary for W-BFT

The main focus of this meeting will be on the: BFT MSE and the path forward for presenting results to the Commission: responses to the Commission; draft of the Executive Summary for W-BFT; workplan for 2022; and the recommendations. Hence, only papers directly relevant to the objectives listed above will be scheduled for presentation. Other scientific papers will be accepted but we cannot guarantee that there will be time to present them, and they will be presented at the end of the meeting, if time permits.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements and assignment of rapporteurs
2. MSE
 - 2.1 BFT MSE Consultant's update on work since July meeting
 - 2.2 Review of recommendations from the July Technical team
 - 2.2.1 Review of the acceptability of the reconditioned OMs
 - 2.2.2 Review robustness tests
 - 2.2.3 Consideration of any revisions to plausibility weighting of OMs
 - 2.3 CMP Development and review
 - 2.3.1 Round robin from CMP developers
 - 2.3.2 Review and comparison of CMP results
 - 2.3.3 Condensing CMPs into 2-3 for further presentation at this stage
 - 2.4 Performance measures and statistics for reporting
 - 2.4.1 Review and trimming of existing measures
 - 2.4.2 Statistics for reporting
 - 2.5 Messaging on MSE (material for SCRS and Commission, and other stakeholder groups)
 - 2.5.1 Review of deliverables from MSE communications team: One page summary, Executive summary (4 pages), and Presentation and slides
 - 2.5.2 Process for engagement to describe the BFT MSE process and to summarise results to date
 - 2.6 General criteria for exceptional circumstances
 - 2.7 TSD
 - 2.8 MSE Code review progress
3. Report out from BFT Technical Sub-groups and GBYP (subgroup leads and GBYP coordinator)
 - 3.1 BFT Technical Sub-group on Assessment models (EBFT)
 - 3.2 BFT Technical Sub-group on Growth in Farms
 - 3.3 GBYP
 - 3.3.1 GBYP matters
 - 3.3.2 GBYP aerial survey review and revised index
4. Review of the Executive summary for W-BFT
5. Review of Abundance indices and other fisheries indicators for E-BFT
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Recommendations on management, research and statistics
8. Presentation of other scientific papers
9. Other matters
 - 9.1 Workplan
10. Adoption of the report

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online on 2-9 September 2021. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 16:30 CEST (UTC +2)** to account for time zone differences.

2. Contact information

Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

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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 ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **26 August 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 August 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 **23 August 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**.