

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 January 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 0497/2022

**SUBJECT: 2022 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DATA PREPARATORY MEETING
(INCLUDING NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MSE) (Online, 21 March - 1 April 2022)**

I would like to inform you that the *2022 Atlantic Swordfish Data Preparatory meeting* will be held online between 21 March and 1 April 2022. The meeting will also include a second part on North Atlantic Swordfish MSE.

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 **14 March 2022**. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form available on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **14 March 2022**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commission Officers:

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	R. Chong	STACFAD Chair:	D. Warner-Kramer
Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair:	H. Arribabalaga

- Head delegates/Head Scientists

- Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



2022 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (INCLUDING NORTH ATL-SWO MSE)

(Online, 21 March – 1 April 2022)

Objectives

The SCRS will include data up to 2020 during the 2022 assessment of Atlantic swordfish. Updates of relevant biological parameters and relative abundance indices (individual and combined) are requested for the new assessment including data until 2021 when available. In addition, during the meetings relevant matters related to the North Atlantic swordfish MSE development will be discussed.

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics
 - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) data
 - 3.2 Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 3.3 Catch-at-size, Catch-at-age, Weight at Age
 - 3.4 Tagging data
4. Indices of abundance (individual and combined indices)
 - 4.1 North
 - 4.2 South
 - 4.3 Trends and correlations in the CPUE indices
 - 4.4 Determine indices to be used in the next assessment for the base-case and sensitivity runs
5. Discussion on models to be used during the assessment and their assumptions
 - 5.1 North
 - 5.2 South
 - 5.3 Diagnostics to be used for model validation
6. MSE matters
 - 6.1 Review of current development state of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE
 - 6.2 Presentation of the currently adopted MSE roadmap by the Commission
 - 6.3 Further development of the MSE work during 2022
 - 6.3.1 Discussion on recondition OMs considering new information from the stock assessment, and plans to finalize the OM grid
 - 6.3.2 Continue work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances taking into account the exceptional circumstances protocol for N-ALB
 - 6.3.3 Discussion on performance indicators and advice intervals
 - 6.3.4 Continue work on development and testing of candidate management procedures
7. Other Matters
8. Recommendations and Workplan
9. 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 schedule for the different agenda items.



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 21 March and 1 April 2022. Meeting hours will be from **11:00 - 16:30 CET (Madrid Time)** to account for time zone differences, with a 30 minute break around 13:30.

2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting: Dr. Rui Coelho (rpcoelho@ipma.pt)
Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA),
Avenida 5 de Outubro, s/n, 8700-305, Olhão, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 700 504

Co-chair of the meeting: Dr. Kyle Gillespie (kyle.gillespie@dfo-po.gc.ca)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Andrews Biological Station, Population Ecology Division
125 Marine Science Drive,
St. Andrews, New Brunswick, E5B 0E4
Tel: +1 506 529 5725

Co-chair of the meeting: Denham Parker (DParker@environment.gov.za)
Stock Assessment Scientist, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
9 Martin Hammerschlag Way, 7800,
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 402 3165; +27 82 660 7985

Secretariat contact: Dr. Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@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 interpretation 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 **14 March 2022**. 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit Task 1 or Task 2 data (including estimations of *faux poisson*) up until the year 2020, two weeks before the beginning of the meeting (**4 March 2022**).

Individual and combined standardized CPUE indices until 2020 should be provided for both the North and Southern stocks. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM), established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series. Parties should submit the indices of abundance at least one week before the meeting. In this way, the authors of CPUEs together with the Chair and the Secretariat will prepare a tentative CPUE evaluation table in advance of the meeting.

6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **14 March 2022** 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 **14 March 2022**.

7. 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**.