

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 February 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1073/2022

SUBJECT: 2022 EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (INCLUDING BFT MSE) (Online, 18 - 26 April 2022)

I would like to inform you that the *2022 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting* will be held online between 18 and 26 April 2022. The meeting will also include Atlantic bluefin tuna 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 **8 April 2022**. 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 **11 April 2022**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commission Officers:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
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| SCRS Chair: | G. Melvin | SCRS Vice Chair | H. Arrizabalaga |

- Head delegates/Head Scientists

- Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



**2022 EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA
DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (INCLUDING BFT MSE)**
(Online, 18-26 April 2022)

Objectives

The SCRS gives priority to the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process in 2022, but a stock assessment for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (BFT) in 2022 has been requested by the Commission. The Commission stated that the eastern stock assessment should not interfere with the MSE process. This means that MSE has priority and that efforts related to the stock assessment must be contained within a workload compatible with the MSE tasking for 2022. The general approach is to keep the data used for the assessment as consistent as possible to what is currently used within the MSE.

At this meeting, the BFT Species Group (BFTSG) will address ongoing progress in the MSE process, including Candidate Management Procedure (CMP) development, the performance metrics to test and refine CMPs, tradeoff space related to initial operational management objectives, and the BFT Ambassadors programme.

In relation to the 2022 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Stock Assessment, the BFTSG will review available data and indices for this assessment to 2020. Given the timing, the assessment will only be able to entertain limited changes to other input data and model structure. It is not anticipated deviating from model advice framework based on VPA and Stock Synthesis, but the possibility of using other models remains open.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements and assignment of rapporteurs

MSE Process (2 days)

2. Summary of developments on ABFT-MSE
 - 2.1. Report on 2022 March Panel 2 meeting on BFT MSE
 - 2.2. Round-robin from CMPs
 - 2.2.1. Changes to CMPs based on Panel 2/Commission input
 - 2.3. Summary of CMP performance
 - 2.3.1. Tradeoffs
 - 2.3.2. Key findings
 - 2.3.3. Key figures and plots
 - 2.4. Update performance statistics based on initial operational management objectives
 - 2.4.1. Request from Panel 2 to provide a B_{lim}
 - 2.4.2. Fishing mortality metric
 - 2.4.3. Other statistics
 - 2.5. Specification of final MSE robustness trials
 - 2.6. Decision process for CMP culling
 - 2.6.1. Satisficing
 - 2.6.2. Quantitative criteria
 - 2.6.3. Other considerations
 - 2.7. Initial cull of CMPs
 - 2.8. Communications material
 - 2.8.1. Key plots and outputs
 - 2.8.2. Develop presentation to Panel 2 on progress
 - 2.8.3. BFT MSE Ambassadors programme
 - 2.9. Path forward for the BFT MSE process
 - 2.9.1. Workplan and decision points
 - 2.10. Update of trial specification document (TSD)



E-ABFT Data Preparatory (3 days)

3. Review of the scientific papers relevant to assessment
4. Presentation of initial data inputs
 - 4.1. Biology and age data
 - 4.2. Size and age composition, update stereo-camera data through to 2020
 - 4.3. Catch Estimates
 - 4.3.1. Task 1 Nominal Catches
 - 4.3.2. Assumptions about catches in 2021 and 2022 for projections
 - 4.3.3. Assumptions regarding past inflated catch and recent IUU
 - 4.4. Indices of abundance
5. Detailed ToRs for E-BFT stock assessment (VPA and Stock Synthesis)
 - 5.1. Specify sensitivity runs
 - 5.2. Specify projection settings
6. Workplan leading to the July assessment
7. General discussion of GBYP matters
8. Other matters
 - 8.1. BFT Technical Sub-group on Growth in farms
9. Adoption of the report and closure **(2 days)**

Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 18 and 26 April 2022. Meeting hours will be from **12:00 - 17:30 CEST (UTC +2)** to account for time zone differences, with a 30 minute break around 14:30.

2. Contact information

Coordinator of Bluefin Tuna Species Group (BFTSG):

Dr. Gary Melvin (Gary.Melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
St. Andrews Biological Station
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews
New Brunswick E5B 1B8, Canada

Co-Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

Dr. Enrique Rodríguez-Marín (enrique.rmarin@ieo.es)
Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación
Instituto Español de Oceanografía, C.O. de Santander
Promontorio de San Martín s/n, 39004 Santander
Cantabria, Spain
Tel: +34 942 291 716

Dr. John Walter (john.f.walter@noaa.gov)
NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Center
Sustainable Fisheries Division
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami
Florida 33149, USA
Tel: +1 305 365 4114, Fax: +1 305 361 4562



Secretariat contact: Dr. Ai Kimoto (ai.kimoto@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, French or Spanish.

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 **11 April 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 up until the year 2021, two weeks before the beginning of the meeting (**3 April 2022**).

Individual standardized CPUE indices until 2020 should be provided for the eastern bluefin tuna stock. 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.

6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **11 April 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 **8 April 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**.