

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, 4 April 2022

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1969/2022

**SUBJECT: 2022 EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (INCLUDING BFT MSE) (Madrid (Spain)/hybrid, 4 - 9 July 2022)**

I would like to inform you that the *2022 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna Stock Assessment*, which will also include a component on Atlantic bluefin tuna MSE, will be held in a hybrid format, between 4 and 9 July 2022. Due to the current pandemic situation and current measures regarding the use of the ICCAT building in Madrid, there will be restrictions on the total number of participants that can physically attend the meeting in Madrid (Spain).

Accordingly, a maximum number of **two participants per delegation will be allowed to attend the meeting in-person**. However, there will be exceptions, namely for those who have responsibilities such as SCRS Officers (eg. BFT Species Group rapporteurs) or who will have a role as modelers. If there is no objection, the European Union may, in addition to the two participants per CPC, allow one additional scientist to attend from each of its Member States active in the BFT fishery. If there is any objection to this proposal please inform the Secretariat by **8 April 2022**. All other participants including ICCAT Observers may attend the meeting online. Participants attending the meeting virtually will have full access to the meeting documents, data and discussions, to ensure appropriate participation and transparency in decision making, i.e. so that when decisions are taken in the room there is sufficient transparency and clarity for those who are attending virtually (not in the room). This current arrangement may be adjusted according to the evolution of the pandemic and updates regarding the measures being implemented in the ICCAT building.

Attached please find the meeting 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. Please note that the tentative agenda may be subject to changes, based on decisions to be taken during the *Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna Data Preparatory Meeting* scheduled online between 18-26 April 2022.

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 in-person and online by **22 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 **27 June 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. Arrizabalaga

– **Head delegates/Head Scientists**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

– **Observers**

**Attachment:** Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



## **2022 EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (INCLUDING BFT MSE)**

*(Madrid (Spain)/hybrid, 4 - 9 July 2022)*

### **Objectives**

In 2020 the Commission decided that the SCRS should assess in 2021 the stock status of the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna (E-BFT) and provide management advice for this stock. Accordingly, the main objective of the meeting will be the review of the assessment diagnostics, results and projections. Secondly, the draft executive summary should be started, including discussions regarding draft management advice.

The meeting will likely need to address some topics related to the MSE. This will occur on Wednesday, 6 July from 12:00-16:30 CEST. This will allow remote participants to follow the MSE work at the usual online meeting hours and allow assessment modelers to run additional runs, if necessary.

Further details on the preparatory work for this meeting will be discussed during the *Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna Data Preparatory Meeting* scheduled online between 18-26 April 2022.

Accordingly, the tentative agenda provided below may be subject to changes, which would be made available after the conclusion the E-BFT data preparatory meeting.

Only papers directly relevant to the above-mentioned objectives will be scheduled for presentation and discussion. Other scientific papers may be accepted but will be presented at the end of the meeting, if time allows. Therefore, for the time being, there is no guarantee that there will be time to present them. A detailed meeting report will be produced, which shall include a draft of the E-BFT executive summary (including figures and tables).



## **Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements and assignment of rapporteurs
2. Model diagnostics
  - 2.1 VPA
  - 2.2 Stock Synthesis
  - 2.3 Other models
3. Assessment results
  - 3.1 VPA
    - 3.1.1 Model fits
    - 3.1.2 Stock status
  - 3.2 Stock Synthesis
    - 3.2.1 Model fits
    - 3.2.2 Stock status
  - 3.3 Other models
4. Initial feedback from the independent review
5. Topics related to the Management Strategy Evaluation (Wednesday, 6 July 12:00-16:30 CEST)
6. Projections and management advice
7. Draft Executive Summary sections
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meetings will be held in Madrid, Spain)/hybrid from 4-9 July 2022 (Monday to Saturday) (registration starts at 08:30 am, on 4 July 2022). Meeting hours will be approximately **from 09:00 to 18:00 CEST (UTC +2)**.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: c/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain.

### 2. Contact information

Coordinator of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

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 (IEO), 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](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [ai.kimoto@iccat.int](mailto:ai.kimoto@iccat.int) by **27 June 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. Funding

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives.

According with the *Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund* (Rec. 20-10), MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form 75 days in advance of the start of the meeting, i.e. **20 April 2022**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

### 6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **27 June 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 **22 April 2022**.



## 7. Online (Hybrid) 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**.

## 8. Hotel information

A list of recommended hotels is available on the [ICCAT website](#).