

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, 13 April 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2227 / 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS
(Online, 31 May - 3 June 2022)

I would like to inform you that the *2022 Intersessional meeting of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems* will be held online between 31 May and 3 June 2022.

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 **21 May 2022**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause delay in providing access to participants to the meeting and to the related documents. Participants must also register for the meeting using the online registration form that will be available shortly on the [current meetings page](#) of our website by **24 May 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 Additional information for participants.



2022 INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS (SC-ECO)

(Online, 31 May - 3 June 2022)

Objectives

The Sub-committee will review progress in updating the Ecosystem Report Card as well as other key issues relating to ecosystems and their management. In addition, The Sub-committee will address issues related to bycatch, bycatch mitigation, and statistics.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Pertaining to Ecosystems

2. Review the progress on developing status indicators, pressure indicators and reference levels for the components of the Ecosystem Report Card.
 - 2.1 Review progress on the development of methods for prioritizing risks and screening and validating indicators.
 - 2.2 Review development of case studies and ecoregions
3. Review the intersessional work of the sub-group working on the applicability and functionality of the Ecosystem Report Card (EcoCard) as a tool for monitoring the impacts of ICCAT fisheries.
4. Review the progress of the workshop convened to advance the identification of draft ecoregions and foster discussions on their potential use to facilitate the implementation and operationalization of EBFM within ICCAT.
5. Review how the terms EAFM and EBFM are being used and clarify which will be used by the Sub-committee.

Pertaining to By-catch

6. Sea Turtles
 - 6.1 Review progress of the collaborative work on sea turtles and presentation of the next steps
7. Effect of the mitigation measures: intra and inter taxa
 - 7.1 Factors affecting bycatch and interactions
8. Presentation of the progress made by the Subgroup on Technical Gear Changes (technical changes to the terminal gear)
9. Revise the list of bycatch species that are found in the ICCAT database, in conjunction with the Secretariat and national scientists for the purposes of validating those species for ultimate use in research and reports (e.g. ecosystem components).
10. Explore the use of scientific reference points as a tool for assessing and managing ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species.
11. Investigate available information on hotspots and/or areas with high BPUE to aid in the management of ICCAT fisheries with respect to bycatch species.
12. Seabirds: future actions



Pertaining to Ecosystem and By-catch

13. Review feedback received from Species Groups regarding their needs and contributions towards incorporating/developing ecosystem including bycatch considerations and discuss additional mechanisms to effectively coordinate, integrate and communicate ecosystem-relevant research across the ICCAT Species Groups and within the SCRS
14. Review mechanisms for SC-ECO to work across all Species Groups of the SCRS on the issues related with multi-species (e.g. environmental impacts, multi-species trade-offs, integration of ecological considerations into management procedures) similar to the WGSAM or the Sub-committee on Statistics
15. Contractor's report on the Quasi-Quantitative Risk Assessment Approach
16. Other matters
 - 16.1 Update on status of EFFDIS: CPCs identified as having reported T2CE datasets with incomplete information on effort (catches without effort), report revisions to ICCAT with the missing effort included and whenever possible the catches of the three major shark species (POR, BSH, SMA)
 - 16.2 Estimate the fractions of the total longline catches that do not have sufficient effort information in T2CE and estimate the impact of those datasets on the estimates of EFFDIS
 - 16.3 Preview of the Global Environmental Fund ECOTEST project.
17. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 31 May and 3 June 2022. Meeting hours will be from **11:00 - 16:30 CEST (UTC +2)** to account for time zone differences, with a 30-minute break around 13:30.

2. Contact information

Chairs of the meeting:

Alex Hanke (Alex.Hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
125 Marine Science Drive,
St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 0E4, Canada

Andrés Domingo (adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; dmanchester@gmail.com)
Jefe del Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos
Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA,
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497,
11200 Montevideo, Uruguay

Secretariat contact:

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 **24 May 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. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **24 May 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 **21 May 2022**.



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 Rooms User Guide](#). 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 [Getting Started Guide for Users](#), 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**.