

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, 20 December 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 10359/ 2022

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (INCLUDING MSE)
(hybrid/Pasaia (Spain) from 20 to 23 March 2023)

Following the recent adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2023, I should like to inform you that the *North Atlantic Albacore Data Preparatory meeting* has been scheduled from 20 to 23 March 2023. The in-person meeting will have a hybrid format and will be held at the AZTI laboratory in Pasaia (Spain). I am pleased to provide you the tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herein) 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 shortly be published also on the meetings page of our website.

In order to organize the hybrid meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of in-person participants, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **8 March 2023**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the meeting and the related documents. All participants (online and in-person) must also register for the meeting using the online registration form which is available on the meetings page of our website by **8 March 2023**.

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national scientists from developing States that are Contracting Parties and that can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives. According to the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2020 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int at least **75 days** in advance to the start of the meeting (**4 January 2023**). Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date. All the information related to the [ICCAT Special funds for participation in ICCAT meetings and capacity building](#) is available on the ICCAT website. It is highly recommended to visit this web page in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is necessary to fully complete the invitation form including **explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting** and how it relates to the meeting objectives.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

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Attachment: Tentative Agenda and other relevant information for participants.



NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY MEETING (INCLUDING MSE)
(Hybrid/ Pasaia (Spain), 20–23 March 2023)

Objectives

The main albacore related objectives for 2023 are to conduct stock assessment for the North stock (as required by Rec. 21-04), iterate the management procedure, start developing a new MSE for the northern Atlantic stock, and continue with the research for all three stocks as defined in the Albacore Year Program (ALBYP).

The main objective of this meeting is to prepare the data for the stock assessment meeting (where data will feed the SS3 model and the Management Procedure). In addition, some exceptional circumstances indicators will be evaluated and the ALBYP will be discussed.

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
 - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) data and spatial distribution of catches
 - 3.2 Task 2 catch/effort
 - 3.3 Task 2 size data
 - 3.4 Tagging data
 - 3.5 Average weights by fleet
4. Review of available indices of relative abundance by fleet
5. Stock Synthesis: specifications of data inputs and modeling options
6. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - 6.1 Exceptional Circumstances based on catch and CPUE updates
 - 6.2 Effects of underreporting (Response to Rec. 21-04)
7. Albacore Year Program (ALBYP): achievements and programed activities for North, South and Mediterranean stocks
8. Recommendations on research and statistics
9. Other matters
10. 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 in a hybrid format between 20 and 23 March 2023. The in-person meeting will be at the AZTI Laboratory in Pasaia, Spain. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET (Madrid time)**.

2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting:

Haritz Arrizabalaga (harri@azti.es)
AZTI
Marine Research
Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA)
Herrera Kaia Portualdea z/g 20110 Pasaia, Spain
Tel: +34 667174477

Secretariat contact:

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International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
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Madrid 28002, Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2022. No interpretation will be provided during the meeting, therefore scientific documents and presentations should be preferably provided in English.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. Following the latest SCRS deadlines for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this meeting, they should be provided to info@iccat.int and/or mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **10 March 2023**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by the Chair(s). 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 **8 March 2023** 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 meetings page or the 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 March 2023**.



6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Zoom application for the online meeting. 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 in [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**.