



Madrid, 13 February 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1083 / 2023

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)
(Hybrid/St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, 22-26 May 2023)

Following the Commission's adoption of the SCRS meeting schedule, I would like to inform you that the Intersessional meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE) is scheduled for 22-26 May 2023 in hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the [Saint Andrews Biological Station](#), 125 Marine Science Drive (St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada). In-person participants should book flights to **Saint John, New Brunswick (airport code YSJ)**. Please ensure that you have booked flights to the correct location. **Do not book flights to Saint John's, Newfoundland**. The meeting hosts will be arranging transportation from Saint John airport to St. Andrews. Please **send your flight information to Kyle Gillespie** (Kyle.Gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) when you have made a booking. Meeting participants are encouraged to make their hotel bookings as early as possible, since May is the start of tourist season in St. Andrews (see list of hotels).

Attached please find the meeting's tentative agenda and other relevant information. This announcement will also be published on ICCAT's [current meetings page](#) shortly. I would appreciate that you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting.

To organize access to the meeting, I would kindly request that you send the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **12 May 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 by **12 May 2023** using the online registration form which will be available shortly on the [current meetings page](#) of our website.

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 (8 March 2023)** in advance of the start of the meeting. 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 webpage in advance and to strictly follow the protocols. In particular, it is essential to fully complete the application form including **explanations of the applicant's expected contributions to achieving the meeting objectives**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel



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– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE SWORDFISH SPECIES GROUP (INCLUDING MSE)

(Hybrid, Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada; 22-26 May 2023)

Objectives

The ICCAT Swordfish Species Group is scheduled to provide management advice for the North Atlantic stock in 2023 through the ongoing management strategy evaluation (MSE). In addition, the Species Group's biology program is making advancements in key components of life history studies. The main objectives of this meeting are: to review progress and continue development of Northern Swordfish MSE; to review progress for the Swordfish Year Program (SWOYP) and to plan next steps; as well as, to begin work on a closed-loop simulation study for the South Atlantic stock.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics
 - 2.1 Task 1 (catches) data
 - 2.2 Task 2 (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 2.3 Catch-at-size, Catch-at-age, Weight at Age
 - 2.4 Tagging data
3. Plans for review of indices of abundance
 - 3.1 Best practices and catch per unit effort (CPUE) diagnostics
 - 3.2 Incorporation of spatial and environmental effects
4. Swordfish Year Program (SWOYP)
 - 4.1 Life history project
 - 4.1.1 Ageing and growth
 - 4.1.2 Reproduction and maturity
 - 4.1.3 Genetics and stock boundaries
 - 4.1.4 Sampling activities
 - 4.1.5 Project phase six planning
 - 4.2 Size/sex distribution study
 - 4.3 Sex specific curved/straight length conversion development for the Mediterranean
 - 4.4 Pop-up satellite archival tag project
5. N-SWO MSE
 - 5.1 Review of current development state of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE
 - 5.2 Review of recent Panel 4 interactions
 - 5.3 Presentation of candidate management procedures (CMPs) in development
 - 5.4 Discussion on MSE development next steps
 - 5.4.1 Panel interactions
 - 5.4.2 Ambassador sessions
 - 5.4.3 CMP development
6. Closed-loop simulation study for South Atlantic Swordfish
7. Responses to the Commission
8. Recommendations and workplan
9. Review of terms of reference for research activities
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format 22-26 May 2023. The in-person meeting will be at the DFO in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 Atlantic Daylight Time (UTC-3)**.

2. Contact information

Meeting Chair:

Dr. Kyle Gillespie (kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
125 Marine Science Drive,
St. Andrews, NB, E5B 0E4, Canada
Tel: +1 506 529 5725

Secretariat contact:

Dr. Nathan G. Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8
28002 Madrid, 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. These should be provided to info@iccat.int and nathan.taylor@iccat.int by **15 May 2023**. Documents and presentations provided after this deadline will not be accepted unless 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*. The original documents (text, tables, and figures) should be prepared in Microsoft Word or compatible software.

5. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **12 May 2023**, at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat to ensure setting up 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 their Head Delegate or Head Scientist well in advance to ensure that they are included in the official list of delegates that must be sent to the Secretariat by **12 May 2023**.

6. Online settings

The online meeting will be held on [Zoom](#). It is generally advisable that you connect to the meeting using the Zoom client. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online meeting at the following link: [Zoom Hardware requirements](#). Participants must be logged into their Zoom client using the email that they used to register for the meeting. 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 Zoom application can be found at the [Zoom-overview webpage](#), if you have further questions, please contact the Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** from the Zoom platform **with a link to join the meeting**.

7. List of Hotels and Inns

[Algonquin Resort](#)

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/YSJAK-the-algonquin-resort-st-andrews-by-the-sea-autograph-collection/overview/>

Availability for 20-25 May 2023 (the resort is fully booked on 26 May 2023 as a large conference is being hosted by the Resort)

[Treadwell Inn](#)

<https://www.treadwellinn.com/>

[Montague Rose Inn & Tea Room](#)

<https://montaguerose.com/>

[Seaside Beach Resort](#)

<https://seasidebeachresort.net/>

[Kingsbrae Arms](#)

<https://kingsbrae.com/>

[Kennedy House](#)

<https://www.kennedy-house.ca/>

[Europa Inn](#)

<https://www.europainn.com/>

[Inn on Frederick](#)

<https://innonfred147572534.wordpress.com/>

[Salty Towers](#)

<https://www.saltytowers.ca/>

[Rossmount Inn](#)

<https://www.rossmountinn.com/>

[St. Andrews Inn & Suites](#)

<https://www.standrewsinnandsuites.com/>

[Airbnb](#)

https://www.airbnb.ca/s/St.-Andrews--New-Brunswick--Canada/homes?tab_id=home_tab&refinement_paths%5B%5D=%2Fhomes&flexible_trip_lengths%5B%5D=one_week&price_filter_input_type=0&price_filter_num_nights=5&query=St.%20Andrews%2C%20NB&place_id=ChIJHzmU-jCoqEwRkcIEXz7A1jE&date_picker_type=calendar&checkin=2023-05-21&checkout=2023-05-27&source=structured_search_input_header&search_type=autocomplete_click