

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, 28 February 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1541 / 2023

**SUBJECT: ATLANTIC SAILFISH DATA PREPARATORY AND STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
*(hybrid/Dakar, Senegal, from 5 to 10 June 2023)*

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2023, I should like to inform you that the Atlantic Sailfish Data Preparatory and Stock Assessment meeting has been scheduled from 5 to 10 June 2023 and will have a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at Le Ndiambour - Hôtel et Résidence, 121 Rue Carnot, Dakar 11000, Senegal.

I am pleased to provide the tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herewith) 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 **26 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 **26 May 2023**, using the online registration form which will shortly be available on the 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](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **75 days** in advance of the start of the meeting (**22 March 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:**

<b>Commission Chair:</b>	E. Penas Lado	<b>COC Chair:</b>	D. Campbell
<b>First Vice Chair:</b>	Z. Driouich	<b>PWG Chair:</b>	N. Ansell
<b>Second Vice Chair:</b>	R. Chong	<b>STACFAD Chair:</b>	D. Warner-Kramer
<b>Chairs Panels 1-4</b>			
<b>SCRS Chair:</b>	C. Brown		

**- Head Delegates / Head Scientists**

**- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

**- Observers**

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



**Atlantic Sailfish Data Preparatory and Stock Assessment Meeting**  
*(Hybrid/ Dakar, Senegal from 5 to 10 June 2023)*

**Objectives**

The main objective of this meeting is to conduct an assessment of the West and East Atlantic sailfish stocks. The meeting will review new biological information, catch and fisheries statistics including discards, indices of abundance, and auxiliary information for the assessment models.

**Tentative Agenda\***

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on the biology
3. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
  - 3.1 Task 1 (catches) and discards data and spatial distribution of catches
  - 3.2 Task 2 catch/effort
  - 3.3 Task 2 size data
  - 3.4 Tagging data
4. Review of available indices of relative abundance by fleet
5. Assessment models for evaluation, specifications of data inputs, and modeling options
  - 5.1 Production models
  - 5.2 Catch Statistical integrated model Stock Synthesis
  - 5.3 Other methods
6. Stock Status results
  - 6.1 Production models
  - 6.2 Catch statistical integrated model Stock Synthesis
  - 6.3 Other methods
7. Stock projections
8. Recommendations
  - 8.1 Research and statistics
  - 8.2 Management
9. Responses to the Commission
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure

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\* 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 5 and 10 June 2023. The in-person meeting will be at Le Ndiambour - Hôtel et Résidence, 121 Rue Carnot, Dakar 11000, Senegal. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 UTC (Dakar time)**.

### 2. Contact information

Chair: Fambaye Ngom Sow ([ngomfambaye2015@gmail.com](mailto:ngomfambaye2015@gmail.com))  
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Secretariat contact:

Dr Mauricio Ortiz ([mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int))  
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](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int) by **26 May 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 **26 May 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 **26 May 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**.