



Madrid, 3 April 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 2712 / 2023

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING MSE) MEETING
(Hybrid/Madrid (Spain), 26-29 June 2023)

Following the recent North Atlantic Albacore Data Preparatory (including MSE) Meeting held between 20 and 23 March 2023, I should like to inform you that the North Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment (including MSE) Meeting is scheduled for 26-29 June 2023, in a hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid (Spain). I am pleased to provide you 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 also be published shortly on the ICCAT [current meetings webpage](#).

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 ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting **by 16 June 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 **16 June 2023** using the online registration form which is available 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 (12 April 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 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 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

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

North Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment session (including MSE)

(Madrid, Spain/Hybrid – 26-29 June 2023)

Objectives

The main albacore objectives for 2023 are to conduct a stock assessment for the North stock, 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. The main objective of this meeting is to use the data and decisions taken in the Data Preparatory meeting to build a new SS3 model, iterate the MP, evaluate exceptional circumstances and start discussing the new MSE.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of input data for stock assessment and Management Procedures (MP) iteration
 - 2.1 Biology
 - 2.2 Catches
 - 2.3 Size
 - 2.4 Indices of abundance
 - 2.5 Fleet structure
3. Methods and Model settings
 - 3.1 Stock Synthesis
 - 3.2 Surplus Production models
4. Model diagnostics
 - 4.1 Stock Synthesis
 - 4.2 Surplus Production models
5. Model results
 - 5.1 Stock Synthesis
 - 5.2 Surplus Production models
6. Stock projections
7. Iteration of MP
8. Evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances
9. Discussion on the new Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) (steps, timeline)
10. Responses to the Commission
 - 10.1 *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic albacore [Rec. 21-04]: Effects of underreporting*
11. Recommendations
 - 11.1 Research and statistics
 - 11.2 Management
12. Albacore Research Program (ALBYP): Update on ongoing activities and future planning
 - 12.1. Reproductive biology (North and South)
 - 12.2. E-tagging
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and closure



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Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between **26 and 29 June 2023**. The in-person meeting will be at the **ICCAT Secretariat, Madrid (Spain)**. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CET**.

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

ICCAT Secretariat contact:

Dr. Mauricio Ortiz (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.

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 19 June 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 16 June 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 16 June 2023**.



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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**.