



Madrid, 26 April 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR #3424 / 2023

**SUBJECT: BLUE SHARK STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING (Hybrid/Madrid (Spain), 17-21 July 2023)**

Following the recent Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting held between 17-21 April 2023, I should like to inform you that the Blue Shark Stock Assessment Meeting is scheduled for 17-21 July 2023, in hybrid format. The in-person meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid (Spain). I am pleased to provide you with 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 7 July 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 7 July 2023**, using the online registration form which will be shortly 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](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **75 days (3 May 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 website 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.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos  
Assistant Executive Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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– Head Delegates and Head Scientists

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



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**Blue Shark Stock Assessment session**  
*(Madrid, Spain/Hybrid, 17-21 July 2023)*

**Objective**

The main sharks related objectives for 2023 are to conduct a stock assessment for the North and South stocks of blue shark, continue the research activities as defined in the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) and assess the achieved results.

The main objective of this meeting is to present and discuss the results of the blue shark stock assessment and draft the new Executive Summary for the blue shark.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of available data for assessment
  - 2.1 Stock identity
  - 2.2 Catches
  - 2.3 Indices of abundance
  - 2.4 Biology
  - 2.5 Length compositions
  - 2.6 Other relevant data
3. Methods and other data relevant to the assessment
  - 3.1 Production models
  - 3.2 Length-based age-structured models: Stock Synthesis
  - 3.3 Just Another Bayesian Biomass Assessment (JABBA)
  - 3.4 Other methods
4. Stock status results
  - 4.1 Production models
  - 4.2 Stock Synthesis
  - 4.3 JABBA
  - 4.4 Other methods
  - 4.5 Synthesis of assessment results
5. Projections
6. Recommendations
  - 6.1 Research and statistics
  - 6.2 Management
7. Responses to the Commission
8. Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and closure



### Additional information for participants

#### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format 17-21 July 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

Rapporteur of the Shark Species Group:

Dr. Rodrigo Forselledo ([rforselledo@gmail.com](mailto:rforselledo@gmail.com))  
Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos – DINARA  
Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente  
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Secretariat contact:

Dr. Nathan Taylor ([nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto: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, 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](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) **by 10 July 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 7 July 2023**, at the latest. Early registration is essential for the ICCAT 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 in advance to ensure that they are included in the official list that must be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat by **7 July 2023**.

#### 6. Online settings

The ICCAT Secretariat uses the Zoom application for the hybrid meetings. You can find the hardware requirements to join online meetings at the following link: [Zoom Hardware requirements](#). To hear and be heard during the meeting we strongly suggest that *both online and in-person* participants at the meeting use headset with a microphone; therefore, in-person participants are kindly requested to bring headsets.



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A brief and clear introduction of the application can be found in [Zoom-overview](#), if you have further questions, please contact the ICCAT Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.