

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, 19 May 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4561/2023

**SUBJECT: ICCAT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON TROPICAL TUNAS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) (first to be held online, 13 June 2023)**

I am pleased to inform you that the ICCAT Secretariat has recently awarded a short-term contract to a Consortium of experts on management strategy evaluation (MSE) to prepare and develop two capacity building workshops on MSE. Dr David Die, from the USA will be the coordinator, and Dr Rodrigo Sant'Ana and Dr Bruno Mourato, from Brazil, will be developing the materials and be the instructors of the workshops. The expected outcomes of these workshops include that the participants learn:

- the basic concepts of MSE
- about the state of development of tropical tunas MSEs
- how to contribute to the MSE process

The first of these workshops has been scheduled for 13 June 2023, and will have an online format with interpretation in all three ICCAT official languages. The general objective of this workshop is to contribute to increasing the capacity of scientists interested in the management of tropical tuna species.

Due to the nature of the workshop, the number of participants will be limited to ensure that the workshop objectives are met, taking into consideration the online format of this capacity building initiative. The Contractors are to set the maximum number of participants which will permit the necessary level of engagement. It will therefore be necessary to establish a participant selection process, involving a Selection Panel composed of the SCRS Chair, the Contractor and the ICCAT Secretariat. Preference shall be given to:

- participants from developing country CPCs
- participants from a diversity of CPCs
- scientists involved in the SCRS process
- managers involved in the Commission process

Based on the above, scientists interested in attending the first workshop scheduled for 13 June 2023, should send their expressions of interest to the Secretariat ([info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int)) by **26 May 2023 at the latest**, together with a supporting letter from the Head Delegate. The scientists selected will be contacted by the Contractor, and will be provided with the essential material for the workshop and well as other instructions.

I would appreciate it very much if you could distribute this announcement to those scientists who may be interested in participating in the workshops. This announcement will shortly be published on the ICCAT [current meetings webpage](#).

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**

**Attachment:** Additional information on the First ICCAT capacity building workshop for scientists on tropical tunas MSE.



**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**ICCAT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SCIENTISTS ON TROPICAL TUNAS**  
**MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE)**

*(online, 13 June 2023)*

**Instructors**

The course coordinator is Dr David Die, who will be assisted by Dr Bruno Leite Mourato, and Dr Rodrigo Sant'Ana.

**Prerequisites**

The invited participants must review and complete by early June 2023 the pre-workshop materials that will be made available. Participants will receive confirmation of participation and instructions on how to access the pre-workshop materials before such date.

**Workshop outcomes**

- Understand what management strategy evaluation is, and how it can be used to address some of the current management challenges faced in ICCAT fisheries, for fisheries that target tropical tuna stocks;
- To become familiar with the key concepts and the terminology of MSE used in ICCAT;
- To understand the basic structure, design, and implementation of simulation testing of management procedures
- To become familiar with the state of development of MSE for tropical tunas in ICCAT and other tRFMOs

**Duration**

The contents of this course will be delivered through four 1.5 hours sessions in a single day. There will be two short breaks of 30 min between sessions 1 and 2 and sessions 3 and 4, and a 1 hour break for lunch in the middle of the day. Final times will be announced in early June 2023. The schedule will be designed to be as appropriate as possible to facilitate the participation of scientists of West African CPCs.

1. Welcome and introductions – 15 mins (D. Die)
  - a) General introduction of participants and trainers
  - b) Overview and objectives of the course
2. Course expectations – 15 min (participants)
3. Introduction to Management Procedures (MPs) – 60 mins (D. Die)
  - a) Elements of MPs
    - i. Spotlight on setting Management Objectives
    - ii. Spotlight on Harvest Control Rules
  - b) Benefits of MPs

*Break (30 min)*



4. Introduction to Management Strategy Evaluation – 60 mins (R. Sant'Ana/ B. Mourato)
  - a) Elements of MSE
  - b) How is MSE different from current stock assessment practice?
  - c) What are the benefits of MSE?
  - d) MPs and MSE at ICCAT
5. Demonstration of MSE application – 30 min (D. Die)  
*Lunch break – 1 hr*
6. MSE exercise – 90 min (Mourato/Sant'Ana/Die)  
*Break – 30 min*
7. State of tropical tunas MSE development – 60 mins
  - a) Multi-stock MSE (D. Die)
  - b) Western skipjack MSE (B. Mourato/ R. Sant'Ana)
8. Review and conclusions – 30 min (participants)