

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, 1 June 2023

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5195/ 2023

**SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND STATISTICS (SCRS)**  
*(hybrid/Madrid (Spain), 25 - 29 September 2023)*

On behalf of the Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I should like to inform you that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) will hold its 2023 meeting in hybrid format, from 25 to 29 September 2023. The in-person meeting will be held in Madrid (Spain), at the [Hotel Chamartín The One](#).

In order to carry out the preparatory work, the Sub-committee on Statistics and the Species Groups will also meet in a hybrid format, during the preceding week in Madrid at the Hotel Chamartín The One (18-23 September 2023). Interpretation will be provided to the Species Groups meetings of the Tropical tunas, Small tunas, Sharks and Sub-committee on Statistics.

The Tentative Agendas for the SCRS Plenary, the Sub-committee on Statistics and the Species Groups meetings as well as other relevant information are attached herewith. The SCRS timetable will be made available at a later stage at the [ICCAT current meetings webpage](#). However, please note that a meeting is scheduled for Heads of Delegation at 8:30 (Madrid time) on 25 September 2023.

Please note that our mailing distribution list is limited. Therefore, I should like to ask that you circulate this announcement among potential delegates. This announcement will also be placed on our [website](#). Documents for general distribution which become available before the meeting will also be placed on the [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 received **75 days in advance (5 July)** for the Species Groups and the Subcommittee on Statistics and **12 July** for the SCRS Plenary 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 necessary to fully complete the invitation form including **explanations of the expected contribution to the meeting** and how it relates to the meeting objectives. These latter documents should be sent to [ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int).

In order to organize the meetings in advance of the sessions, 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 SC-STATS, Species Groups and SCRS Plenary meeting by **1 September 2023**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause delay in providing access to participants to the meeting and to the related documents. Participants must also register for the meetings by **8 September 2023**, at the latest, using the [online registration form](#) which will be shortly available on the current meetings page of our website.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA  
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

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Please accept 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**
- **SCRS Officers**
- **Observers, FAO/DOALOS, RFMOs**

**Attachment:** Tentative Agenda for the SCRS Plenary meeting. Tentative agendas and schedule for the Sub-committee on Statistics and the Species Groups meetings. Call for Scientific Papers.

**SCRS Plenary Tentative Agenda**

1. General remarks by the SCRS Chair
2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements for the meeting
3. Introduction of Contracting Party delegations
4. Introduction and admission of observers
5. Admission of scientific documents and presentations
6. Report of ICCAT Secretariat activities on statistics and science
7. Review of national fisheries and research programmes
8. Reports of intersessional SCRS meetings
  - 8.1 First Meeting of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE Technical Sub-group
  - 8.2 Intersessional Meeting of the Tropical Tunas Species Group (including MSE)
  - 8.3 North Atlantic Albacore Data Preparatory Meeting
  - 8.4 Blue Shark Data Preparatory Meeting
  - 8.5 Intersessional Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch
  - 8.6 Intersessional Meeting of the Small Tunas Species Group
  - 8.7 Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)
  - 8.8 Intersessional Meeting of the Swordfish Species Group (including MSE)
  - 8.9 Sailfish Data Preparatory and Stock Assessment Meeting
  - 8.10 Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment meeting
  - 8.11 Blue Shark Stock Assessment meeting
  - 8.12 Second Meeting of the North Atlantic Swordfish MSE Technical Sub-group
9. Executive Summaries on species:
  - 9.1 YFT-Yellowfin
  - 9.2 BET-Bigeye
  - 9.3 SKJ-Skipjack
  - 9.4 ALB-Albacore
  - 9.5 BFTE-Eastern Bluefin
  - 9.6 BFTW- Western Bluefin

- 9.7 SBF-South Bluefin
- 9.8 BUM-Blue marlin
- 9.9 WHM-White marlin
- 9.10 SAI-Sailfish
- 9.11 SWO-Atl. - Atlantic Swordfish
- 9.12 SWO-Med. - Mediterranean Swordfish
- 9.13 SMT-Small tunas
- 9.14 BSH-Blue Shark
- 9.15 SMA-Shortfin Mako
- 9.16 POR-Porbeagle
- 10. SCRS Science Strategic Plan
- 11. Reports of Research Programmes
  - 11.1 Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)
  - 11.2 Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP)
  - 11.3 Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP)
  - 11.4 Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research Programme (EPBR)
  - 11.5 Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP)
  - 11.6 Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)
  - 11.7 Other research activities (on tropical tunas)
- 12. Report of the Subcommittee on Statistics Meeting
- 13. Report of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch Meeting
- 14. Discussions at the Intersessional Meetings of the Commission relevant to the SCRS
  - 14.1 Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1
  - 14.2 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2
  - 14.3 Intersessional Meetings of Panel 4
  - 14.4 Intersessional Meetings of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)
- 15. Progress related to work developed on MSE
  - 15.1 Work conducted for northern albacore
  - 15.2 Work conducted for bluefin tuna
  - 15.3 Work conducted for northern swordfish

- 15.4 Work conducted for W-SKJ
- 15.5 Work conducted for tropical tunas multistock MSE
- 15.5 Review of the Roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2022
- 16. Update of the stock assessment software catalogue
- 17. Consideration of plans for future activities
  - 17.1 Annual workplans and research programmes
    - 17.1.1 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch Workplan
    - 17.1.2 Subcommittee on Statistics Workplan
    - 17.1.3 Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) Workplan
    - 17.1.4 Albacore Workplan
    - 17.1.5 Billfish Workplan
    - 17.1.6 Bluefin Tuna Workplan
    - 17.1.7 Sharks Workplan
    - 17.1.8 Small Tunas Workplan
    - 17.1.9 Swordfish Workplan
    - 17.1.10 Tropical Tunas Workplan
  - 17.2 Intersessional meetings proposed for 2024
  - 17.3 Date and place of the next meeting of the SCRS
- 18. General recommendations to the Commission
  - 18.1 General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications
    - 18.1.1 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch
    - 18.1.2 Subcommittee on Statistics
    - 18.1.3 Albacore
    - 18.1.4 Billfish
    - 18.1.5 Bluefin tuna
    - 18.1.6 Sharks
    - 18.1.7 Small tunas
    - 18.1.8 Swordfish
    - 18.1.9 Tropical tunas
    - 18.1.10 Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)

18.2 Other general recommendations

18.2.1 Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch

18.2.2 Subcommittee on Statistics

18.2.3 Albacore

18.2.4 Billfish tuna

18.2.5 Bluefin tuna

18.2.6 Sharks

18.2.7 Small tunas

18.2.8 Swordfish

18.2.9 Tropical tunas

18.2.10 Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)

19. Responses to the Commission's requests

20. New templates for Executive Summaries and Detailed Reports

21. Other matters

22. Adoption of the report

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Bluefin Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 18-20 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3) and most recent fishery indicators
2. Scientific guidance on the exceptional circumstances protocol and evaluation according to these protocols
3. Review of new scientific documents for bluefin tuna
4. Review the work conducted under the ICCAT GBYP
5. Bluefin tuna Executive Summaries
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Workplan for 2024
8. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
9. Other matters

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Tropical Tunas Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 18-19 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for Tropical tunas (including ongoing research activities on biology and tagging)
3. Update on the ongoing tropical tunas MSE process
4. Tropical tunas Executive Summaries (BET, YFT and SKJ)
5. Responses to the Commission
6. Workplan for 2024
7. Recommendations for 2024 (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
8. Discuss the draft Tropical Tunas Year Program (TTYP)
9. Other matters

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Swordfish Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 18-19 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for swordfish (including ongoing research activities on biology and tagging)
3. Update on the ongoing northern Atlantic swordfish MSE process
4. Swordfish Executive Summaries
5. Responses to the Commission
6. Workplan for 2024
7. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
8. Other matters

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Small Tunas Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 20 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for small tunas (including ongoing studies related to Small Tunas Year Program (SMTYP))
3. Small tunas Executive Summaries
4. Workplan for 2024 (including extension the ongoing studies/activities under the SMTYP)
5. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
6. Other matters

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Albacore Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 20-21 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for albacore (including ongoing research activities on biology and tagging)
3. Update on the ongoing northern Atlantic albacore MSE process
4. Evaluation of exceptional circumstances for North Atlantic albacore
5. Albacore Executive Summary
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Workplan for 2024
8. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
9. Other matters

### **2023 Tentative Agenda of Sharks Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain;  
20 September 2023; 14:30-18:00 hours and  
21 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for sharks (primarily related to ongoing studies within Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP))
3. Sharks Executive Summaries (BSH, SMA and POR) and management advice for blue shark
4. Responses to the Commission
5. Workplan (including extending the ongoing studies/activities under the SRDCP) for 2024
6. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
7. Other matters



## **2023 Tentative Agenda of Billfish Species Group Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain;  
21 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours and 22 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 hours)*

1. Review of fisheries statistics (Tasks 1, 2 and 3)
2. Review of new scientific documents for billfishes (particularly on ongoing studies within the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (EPBR))
3. Billfishes Executive Summaries (SAI, BUM, WHM and SPF)
4. Responses to the Commission
5. Workplan for 2024 (including extending the ongoing studies/activities under the EPBR)
6. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
7. Other matters

## **2023 Tentative Agenda of Sub-committee on Statistics Meeting**

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain; 22-23 September 2023; 09:00-13:00 - 14:30-18:00 hours)*

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of fisheries and biological data submitted during 2023 (Tasks 1, 2 and 3), including historical revisions
3. Summary of ICCAT Secretariat's standard (yearly based) datasets estimations
4. Review of data deficiencies and ongoing data recovery plans pursuant to [Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations \[Rec. 05-09\]](#)
5. Brief overview of ICCAT Online Management System (IOMS) work
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Workplan for 2024
8. Recommendations (with special emphasis on those with financial implications)
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the Report

## Tentative Timetable

### 2023 Species Groups Meeting

*(Hybrid, Hotel Chamartín The One, Madrid, Spain, 18-23 September 2023; 9:00-13:00 / 14:30-18:00 hours)*

	MON 18		TUE 19		WED 20		THU 21		FRI 22		SAT 23	
Species Groups	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
TT*												
SWO												
BFT												
SMT*												
ALB												
SHK*												
BIL												
SC-STATS												
Officers meeting (18:00-19:30)												

\* Interpretation will be available for the meetings of: Tropical tunas, Small tunas, Sharks and Sub-committee on Statistics.

**2023 Species Groups Meetings and Plenary Meeting of the  
Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

*(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 18 to 29 September 2023)*

**Call for Scientific Papers**

Participants in the Species Groups and/or the SCRS meetings are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. The titles and names of authors of papers should be submitted to ICCAT ([info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int)) as soon as possible, but at least two weeks in advance of the meeting so that Rapporteurs can plan the sessions. The electronic versions of the documents and presentations, if any, shall be submitted at least **one week** before the beginning of the corresponding meeting, to give the ICCAT Secretariat time to organize the work and to make information available to participants in advance of the meeting. Documents submitted after the deadline i.e., one week in advance of the meeting could be deferred to next year for discussion. Authors are reminded to closely follow the [Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#). Documents can be presented in PDF format, although the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in MS Word or compatible software.