

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, 5 January 2024

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 00088 / 2024

**SUBJECT: WORKSHOP OF THE SWORDFISH YEAR PROGRAMME (SWOYP)**  
*(hybrid/ Olhão (Portugal), 27 to 29 February 2024)*

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2024, I would like to inform you that the *Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)* has been scheduled from 27 to 29 February 2024. The in-person workshop will have a hybrid format and will be held in Olhão (Portugal). I am pleased to provide the Tentative agenda of the workshop (attached herein) 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 workshop. This announcement will shortly be published on the meetings page of our [website](#).

In order to organize the hybrid workshop 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 workshop **by 19 February 2024**, at the latest. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the workshop and the related documents. All participants (online and in-person) must also register for the workshop using the online registration form which is/will be available on the meetings page of our [website](#) **by 19 February 2024**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos  
Assistant Executive Secretary

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Commission Officers:**

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<b>Second Vice Chair:</b>	R. Chong	<b>STACFAD Chair:</b>	D. Warner-Kramer
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<b>SCRS Chair:</b>	C. Brown		
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**

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



## **Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)**

*(Hybrid/ Olhão (Portugal), 27 to 29 February 2024)*

The Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP) was established by the ICCAT Swordfish Species Group in 2018 to support biological research important for the assessment and management of the three ICCAT managed swordfish stocks. The objectives of this workshop are to i) review the progress of the SWOYP to date; ii) identify improvements needed within the programme; and iii) plan priority research areas for future project phases. Special emphasis will be placed on development of studies that address uncertainties important in the stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and, in particular, work on understanding effects of Climate Change on stock distribution and biology. The outputs of this workshop will be incorporated in the SCRS Strategic Research Plan currently in development.

### **Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and workshop arrangements
2. Results obtained related to ongoing activities
  - 2.1 Sampling coverage
  - 2.2 Ageing and growth
  - 2.3 Reproduction
  - 2.4 Genetics, including identification of stock boundaries and estimates of stock mixing
  - 2.5 Movement and habitat use (including tagging studies)
  - 2.6 Improvement of information available for stock assessment
  - 2.7 MSE
3. Difficulties faced and possible ways to overcome these
4. Future steps (next project phases)
  - 4.1 Biological studies
  - 4.2 MSE
  - 4.3 Effects of Climate Change on the stocks
  - 4.4 Emerging research areas and new activities
5. Draft proposal for the new SWOYP and coordination with SCRS Strategic Research Plan



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The workshop will be in a hybrid format between 27 and 29 February 2024. The in-person workshop will be held at the **Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)** in **Olhão (Portugal)**. The workshop hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 UTC +0/GMT 0**.

### 2. Contact information

Chair:

Dr. Kyle Gillespie ([kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:kyle.gillespie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))  
Aquatic Science Biologist  
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Secretariat contact:

Dr. Miguel Neves dos Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
C/ Corazón de María 8, 7th floor  
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Tel: +34 91 416 5600

Local contact:

Dr. Rui Coelho ([rpcoelho@ipma.pt](mailto:rpcoelho@ipma.pt))  
IPMA  
Avenida 5 de Outubro s/n  
8700-Olhão, Portugal

### 3. Language

The working language for the workshop will be English, following the decision and Recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2022. No interpretation will be provided during the workshop, 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 workshop, they should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **20 February 2024**. 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 workshop **by 19 February 2024** 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 workshop 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 19 February 2024**.

## 6. Online settings

The Secretariat is using the Zoom application for the online workshop. You can find the hardware requirements to join an online workshop 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 workshop.

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 workshop.

**ICCAT Workshop of the Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)  
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)**

*(Olhão (Portugal), 27-29 February 2024)*



***Meeting Venue and location:***

The meeting will be held at the IPMA (Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere) building (photo above) located on the corner of Avenida 5 de Outubro with Rua da Conserveira (coords: 37°01'27.5"N 7°50'15.6"W or 37.0243, -7.8377).

IPMA-Olhão is located in the town of Olhão, 10km from the city of Faro and 300km south of Lisbon, the Portuguese capital city.

***Transport:***

Faro has an International Airport with direct flights to many European capitals (airport code: FAO)

You can travel from Faro Airport to Olhão by taxi (recommended approx. €20-25), or you can take a bus (Próximo) to Faro city center and then a train or bus to Olhão.

***Recommended Accommodation:***

In Olhão there are a few hotels and many hostels within walking distance of IPMA.

Local hotels within walking distance to the Institute:

- [Real Marina Hotel and Spa](#) (5\*) (€90/night)
- [Pure Formosa Concept Hotel](#) (3\*) (€50/night)
- [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#) (3\*) (€50/night)

Local hostels:

- [BJB - Alojamentos](#)
- [GuestMar](#)

According to the Olhão Tourism Office there are now over 2000 local lodgings in Olhão so you can also search your favorite site ([Booking](#), [Airbnb](#), [TripAdvisor](#), etc.).