

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, 24 April 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03764/ 2024

SUBJECT: YELLOWFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 8-12 July 2024)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2024, I would like to inform you that the 2024 Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting has been scheduled from 8 to 12 July 2024. The in-person meeting will have a hybrid format and will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat. I am pleased to provide the tentative agenda of the meeting (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 meeting. This announcement will be published on the meetings page of our [website](#).

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 **28 June 2024**, at the latest. 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 **28 June 2024** using the online registration form which will be available on the 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 2023 Commission meeting, requests should be sent to ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int at least **45 days** in advance (**24 May 2024**) of the start of the meeting. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date. All the information related to the [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 receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commission Officers:

Commission Chair:	E. Penas Lado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	R. Chong	STACFAD Chair:	D. Warner-Kramer
Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown		

- Head Delegates / Head Scientists

- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and other relevant information for participants.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting
(Hybrid/ Madrid Spain, 8–12 July 2024)

Objectives

The main tropical tunas Species Group objectives for 2024 are to conduct a stock assessment for the yellowfin tuna stock, continue with the development of the tropical tunas management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes, and update the research objectives for all tropical tuna stocks. The main objective of this meeting is to use the data and decisions taken in the 2024 Yellowfin Data Preparatory Meeting to assess the yellowfin tuna stock using several models.

Tentative Agenda*

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Summary of input data for stock assessment
 - a. Biology
 - b. Catches
 - c. Size
 - d. Indices of abundance
 - e. Fleet structure
3. Methods and model settings
 - a. Stock Synthesis
 - b. Surplus Production models
4. Model diagnostics
 - a. Stock Synthesis
 - b. Surplus Production models
5. Model results
 - a. Stock Synthesis
 - b. Surplus Production models
6. Stock Status and Projections
7. Tropical tunas MSE process
 - a. SKJ-W MSE
 - b. Mixed stocks tropical tunas MSE
 - c. Update MSE roadmap
8. Responses to the Commission
9. Recommendations
 - a. Research and statistics
 - b. Management (YFT Executive Summary)
10. Tropical Tuna Research and Data Collection Program (TTRaD) update on ongoing activities and future planning
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report and closure

* An annotated agenda will be circulated by the Chair during the week before the start of the meeting, which will include the schedule for the different Agenda items.



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Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in a hybrid format between 8 and 12 July 2024. The in-person meeting will be at the ICCAT Secretariat. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 CEST (GMT+2)**.

2. Contact information

Chair:

Dr Shannon Cass-Calay (Shannon.Calay@noaa.gov)
Director, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Southeast Fisheries Science Center
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 361 4231, Fax: +1 305 361 4562

ICCAT Secretariat contact:

Dr Mauricio Ortiz (mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/ Corazón de María 8, 7th floor
28002, Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

3. Language

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2023, language interpretation will be provided during the meeting. Participants are encouraged to take advantage of native language opportunities and use video during interventions to facilitate the interpreter's task.

4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers/presentations. In advance of submitting those, authors shall request the SCRS reference to the meeting Chair Dr Shannon Cass-Calay and the ICCAT Secretariat focal point. **After clearance from the meeting Chair**, the ICCAT Secretariat will assign a specific SCRS reference and inform the author(s).

Following the latest SCRS deadline for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this meeting, the scientific papers/presentations should be provided to the meeting Chair, [Dr Shannon Cass-Calay](#), and the ICCAT Secretariat contact, [Dr Mauricio Ortiz](#) by **27 June 2024**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless authorized by the Chair. 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 **28 June 2024** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the ICCAT Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the online meeting platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the [ICCAT meetings page](#) or the fill the Registration form and send it to the ICCAT Secretariat by email. 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 ICCAT Secretariat by **28 June 2024**.



6. Online settings

The ICCAT 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 ICCAT Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an email** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.