



Madrid, 19 January 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 00342 / 2026

SUBJECT: FIRST INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP
(*Online, 9-12 March 2026*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2026, I should like to inform you that the First Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin tuna Species Group is scheduled from 9 to 12 March 2026, in an online format. I am pleased to provide you 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 [2026 meetings webpage](#).

In order to organize the online meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the number of participants, you are kindly requested to send to the ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **27 February 2026**. 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 must also register for the meeting by **27 February 2026** using the online registration form which will be available shortly on the [current meetings page](#) of our website.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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		STACFAD Vice Chair:	B. Chavarría

- Head Delegates and Head Scientists
- Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities
- Observers

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



First Bluefin Tuna Species Group Intersessional Meeting
(*Online – 9-12 March 2026*)

Objectives

The main objectives of the meeting are to advance the health check (status check) work and initiate the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) review.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Status check modeling
 - a) Data inputs
 - i. Size composition
 - ii. Age data
 - iii. Indices
 - iv. Catch
 - v. Biological data (natural mortality, reproduction, etc.)
 - b) Review initial Continuity model runs: Stock Synthesis (East and West)
 - c) New mixing models
3. Status check model revisions
 - a) Include Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) for the western stock
 - b) Others (including index revisions)
4. Available e-tagging data
5. Review mixing data input in the current Operating Models (OMs)
6. Critical review of catch per unit effort (CPUE) time series
 - a) Strictly updated indices
 - b) New/revised indices
7. MSE review data scoping and recommendations
 - a) Finalize alternative model structure(s)
 - b) Draft for sensitivity “status assessment” model runs from MSE models
 - c) Create Candidate Management Procedure (CMP) developer teams
8. Discussion on the 2026 Panel 2 intersessional meeting decisions
9. Next steps
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held online between 9 and 12 March 2026. The meeting hours will be from **9:00** to **18:00 CET (GMT+1)**.

2. Contact information

Co-Chairs of Bluefin Tuna Species Group:

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3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, following the decision and recommendations from the Commission and SCRS in 2025. No interpretation will be provided during the meeting, 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 meeting, they should be provided to info@iccat.int and/or ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **27 February 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by the Chair. Authors are reminded to closely follow the **new *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 **27 February 2026** at the latest. Early registration is essential for the ICCAT Secretariat to ensure the setting up of the online platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the [ICCAT meetings web page](#) or the Registration form. 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 Secretariat by **27 February 2026**.



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 e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.