



Madrid, 4 February 2026

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 00730/2026

**SUBJECT: ALBACORE DATA PREPARATORY MEETING – TENTATIVE AGENDA**  
(*hybrid, Pasaia, Spain, 13-17 April 2026*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the schedule of ICCAT meetings for 2026, I would like to inform you that the Albacore Data Preparatory Meeting is scheduled to be held in hybrid format, in Pasaia, Spain on **13-17 April 2026**. I am pleased to provide herewith the Tentative agenda of the meeting as well as additional information for participants. I would appreciate very much if you could distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also shortly be published on the ICCAT [meetings webpage](#).

In order to organize the online meeting in advance of the session, in particular, as regards 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 **30 March 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing participants with access to the meeting and to the [ICCAT NextCloud folder](#) where the meeting documents and presentations will be made available. All participants must also register for the meeting by **30 March 2026**, using the [online registration form](#) which will soon be available on our [meetings webpage](#).

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a limited number of national scientists from developing States that are Contracting Parties. 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](mailto:ICCAT-Travel@iccat.int) at least **45 days** in advance of the start of the meeting (**27 February 2026**). 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.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Executive Secretary*



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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– **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

– **Observers**

**Attachment:** Tentative agenda and additional information for participants.



**Albacore Data Preparatory Meeting**  
(hybrid, Pasaia, Spain, 13-17 April 2026)

**Objectives**

The main objectives for 2026 are to conduct a full stock assessment for South Atlantic albacore and develop the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework for this stock, to iterate the current MP for the North Atlantic albacore and test alternative new MPs under the new MSE framework, to apply the exceptional circumstances protocol (ECP) of the northern stock, and to continue with the research as defined in the Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP).

The main objective of this meeting is to prepare the data for the southern full stock assessment which will serve as the basis for the development of the south Atlantic ALB MSE. As for the northern stock, the data required to iterate the MP (which requires running a production model) and the development of the new MSE will be revised. In addition, some exceptional circumstances will be checked and the Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP) will be discussed.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of historical and new information on biology
3. Review of fishery statistics/indicators
  - 3.1 Task 1 catches data
  - 3.2 Task 2 catch/effort
  - 3.3 Task 2 size data
4. Review of available indices of relative abundance by fleet
  - 4.1 Southern stock (for SS3)
  - 4.2 Northern stock (for MP)
5. Assessment models (South): specifications of data inputs and modeling options
6. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) South:
  - 6.1 Operating models
  - 6.2 Performance indicators
7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) North:
  - 7.1 Alternative MP results
  - 7.2 Exceptional Circumstances based on catch and CPUE updates
8. Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP): achievements and programmed activities for North, South and Mediterranean stocks
9. Recommendations on research and statistics
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and closure



## Additional information for participants

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in person and online on 13-17 April 2026, at AZTI, Herrera Kaia Portualdea z/g 20110 Pasaia, Spain. The meeting hours will be from 9:00 to 18:00 (Madrid time, CET).

### 2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting:

[Haritz Arrizabalaga](#)

AZTI Marine Research

Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA)

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ICCAT Secretariat contact:

[Mauricio Ortiz](#)

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### 3. Language

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2025, language interpretation will not be provided during the meeting.

### 4. Call for scientific papers and presentations

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In advance of submitting those, authors shall request the SCRS reference from the meeting Chair, Haritz Arrizabalaga and the ICCAT Secretariat contact. After clearance from the meeting Chair, the ICCAT Secretariat will assign a specific SCRS reference and inform the author(s).

Following the latest SCRS deadlines for the submission of SCRS documents and presentations, for this meeting, these should be sent to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int](mailto:mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int) by **6 April 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after the 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. Provision of data

CPCs are requested to submit updates of Task 1 and Task 2 data already reported (up to the year 2024) at least two weeks before the start of the meeting (**29 March 2026**).

Individual standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices until 2024 should be provided for the northern and southern Atlantic stocks. Since the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) established standard criteria to evaluate standardized catch rates, it is recommended that authors of documents on standardized CPUEs follow the instructions defined by the WGSAM, describing the information required to facilitate the appropriate construction and evaluation of CPUE series.



## 6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **30 March 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 webpage](#) 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 ICCAT Secretariat by **30 March 2026**.

## 7. Online settings

The ICCAT Secretariat is using the Zoom application for online meetings. 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**.