



Madrid, 4 March 2026

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01416/ 2026

**SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON STOCK ASSESSMENT METHODS (WGSAM)**  
(Madrid, Spain/Hybrid – 25-28 May 2026)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the schedule of the ICCAT meetings for 2026, I would like to inform you that the Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) is scheduled to be held in Madrid (Spain), between 25-28 May 2026. I am pleased to provide you the tentative agenda of the meeting 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](#).

The meeting format will be in person and online (hybrid) using the ZOOM platform. Meeting hours will be from 9:00 to 18:00 (Madrid time, CET). In order to organize the meeting and issue the online participant links, you are kindly requested to send to the ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **15 May 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing access to participants to the meeting and the ICCAT NextCloud folder where the meeting documents and presentations will be made available. All participants must also register for the meeting by **15 May 2026** using the [online registration form](#) which will be available shortly on the [current 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. 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 (10 April 2026)** in advance of the start of the 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.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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



**Meeting of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM)**  
*(Madrid, Spain/Hybrid – 25-28 May 2026)*

**Objectives**

The Working Group will address key issues related to improving the bycatch estimation methods by CPCs, Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes and other topics on stock assessments.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Bycatch Estimation Methods
  - 2.1 Presentation of bycatch estimation methods
  - 2.2 Review and discuss best practice in estimating bycatch
3. ICCAT Bycatch Estimation Tool (BYET)
  - 3.1 Contractor progress report
  - 3.2 2026 and possible 2027 training workshop
4. Management Strategy Evaluation
  - 4.1 Presentation on papers related to MSE
  - 4.2 Discuss key issues and priorities of MSEs within ICCAT
  - 4.3 Discuss TOR for the advanced MSE workshop
5. Other Matter
  - 5.1 Presentation of papers related to stock assessment
  - 5.2 Presentation of other papers of interest to the Group
  - 5.3 Software catalogue
  - 5.4 Workplan for 2026-2027 and tentative agenda for 2027
6. Recommendations
7. Adoption of the report and closure



### Additional information for participants

#### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be in person and online on 25-28 May 2026 at the ICCAT Secretariat offices in Madrid (Spain). The meeting hours will be from 9:00 to 18:00 (Madrid time, CET).

#### 2. Contact information

Chair of the meeting:

[Dr. Fan Zhang](#)  
Shanghai Ocean University  
999 Hucheng Huan Rd, 201306 Shanghai, China  
Tel: + 86 131 220 70231

ICCAT Secretariat contact:

[Dr. Ai Kimoto](#)  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
C/ Corazón de María 8  
28002 Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 416 5600

#### 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](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [ai.kimoto@iccat.int](mailto:ai.kimoto@iccat.int) by **18 May 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](#) and the available [template](#). 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 **15 May 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 **15 May 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**.