



Madrid, 17 March 2026

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 01811/ 2026

**SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND BYCATCH**  
(Hybrid / Madrid, Spain, 18-22 May 2026)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2026, I should like to inform you that the 2026 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch is scheduled from 18 to 22 May 2026, in a hybrid format. I am pleased to provide you the tentative agenda of the meeting (attached herewith) and other relevant information about the meeting 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 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, UTC+1). In order to organize the 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 **6 May 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 **6 May 2026** using the online registration form which will shortly be available 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](#) at least 45 days (**3 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.

With my highest regards,

P.O. Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos  
Assistant Executive Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**
- **Observers**

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



**Meeting of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch**  
(Hybrid/Madrid, Spain, 18-22 May 2026)

**Objectives**

The Subcommittee will address issues related to the bycatch of megafauna, threatened and protected species, and will review progress in developing the priority components of the Ecosystem Report (EcoCard) as a tool for monitoring the impacts of ICCAT fisheries. The Subcommittee will also consider the Research and Data Collection Programme on Bycatch (PIRDCaF) and collaboration with other tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMOs) on these issues, as well as approaches for incorporating climate-related considerations into ICCAT's management advice framework.

**Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda, and meeting arrangements

*Pertaining to Ecosystems*

2. Review of progress on initiatives developing tools supporting SUBECO ecosystem products: EcoCard and Ecosystem Fisheries Overviews
3. Review of work related to incorporating Climate Change impacts into management decisions
4. Potential effects of mesopelagic fishing on ICCAT fisheries
5. Update on the Common Oceans project – feedback from the Fourth Joint tRFMO meeting on developing indicators to inform Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) processes

*Pertaining to Bycatch*

6. Megafauna, threatened and protected species
  - 6.1 Advancing the process of assessing the impact of ICCAT fleets in the Mediterranean on bycatch
    - 6.1.1 Progress toward a coordinated assessment with relevant groups
  - 6.2 Continue the ongoing review of best practices for mitigation measures to reduce the incidental capture of seabirds
7. Continue reviewing and refining the list of bycatch species
8. Presentation of progress made by the sub-group on technical changes
9. Research and Data Collection Programme on Bycatch (PIRDCaF): review of progress and work within the Subcommittee
10. Reflections on joint work with other tuna RFMO bycatch groups on different approaches to assessing and mitigating bycatch

*Pertaining to Ecosystems and Bycatch*

11. Recommendations (including budget for the period 2026–2029)
12. Responses to the Commission
13. Workplan for 2027
14. Other matters
15. Adoption of the report and closure



### Additional information for participants

#### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with the in-person meeting at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid between 18 and 22 May 2026. Meeting hours will be from 9:00 - 18:00 (Madrid time).

#### 2. Contact information

Co-convenors of the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch:

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ICCAT Secretariat contact:

[Dr. Nathan Taylor](#)

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#### 3. Language

Following the recommendations from the SCRS and the decision of the Commission in 2025, 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 Co-convenors and the Secretariat contact. After clearance from the meeting Co-convenors the 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, they should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) and/or [nathan.taylor@iccat.int](mailto:nathan.taylor@iccat.int) by **8 May 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after the latter deadline will not be accepted unless specifically 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 **6 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 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 **6 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 Secretariat for support. All participants duly registered **will receive an e-mail** through the online platform **with a link to join the meeting**.