



Madrid, 6 April 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02345/ 2026

SUBJECT: SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF BLUEFIN TUNA SPECIES GROUP (*hybrid/Nara, Japan, 1-4 July 2026*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the SCRS meetings scheduled for 2026, I should like to inform you that the Second Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Species Group is scheduled from 1 to 4 July 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 (Japan time, UTC+9). In order to organize the meeting in advance of the session, in particular, regarding the **number of in-person participants**, you are kindly requested to send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting in-person by **23 April 2026**. The list of other **online participants** can be submitted by **19 June 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation to attend the meeting online may cause a delay in providing participants with access to the meeting and the related documents. All participants must also register for the meeting by **19 June 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 at least **45 days (17 May 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

DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	Z. Driouich	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	R. Chong	COC Vice Chair:	Y. Vergara
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SCRS Vice Chair	L.G. Cardoso	STACFAD Vice Chair:	B. Chavarría

– **Head Delegates and Head Scientists**

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

– **Observers**

Attachment: Tentative Agenda and information for participants.



Second Intersessional Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Species Group
(hybrid/Nara, Japan, 1-4 July 2026)

Objectives

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

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Status check model diagnostics
 - a) Stock Synthesis (East and West)
 - b) "Continuity" multiSA model similar to the Operating Model
3. Status check model results
 - a) Stock Synthesis (East and West)
 - i) Model fits
 - ii) Stock status
 - b) "Continuity" multi-SA model similar to the Operating Model
 - i) Model fits
 - ii) Stock status
 - c) Synthesis of status check model results
4. Topics related to the Management Strategy Evaluation
 - a) Discussion of data inputs and assumptions for MSE revisions
 - b) Development of 'Simplified' OM structure by combining existing strata
 - c) Plan for the evaluation of exceptional circumstances in 2026
5. Draft Executive Summary sections
6. Update on GBYP activities
7. Recommendations
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in a hybrid format between 1 and 4 July 2026. The in-person meeting will be held at [Nara Kasugano International Forum Iraka](#) (TBC), 101 Kasuganocho, Nara, Japan. The meeting hours will be from **9:00 - 18:00 JST (UTC+9)**.

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/presentations. In advance of submitting those, authors shall request the SCRS reference from the meeting Co-Chairs Tristan Rouyer and John Walter, and the Secretariat contact. After clearance from the meeting Co-Chairs, 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 and/or ai.kimoto@iccat.int by **22 June 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after this deadline will not be accepted unless specifically authorized by the Co-Chairs. 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

All delegates from CPCs wishing to **attend the meeting in-person** 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 **23 April 2026**. The list of other **online participants** can be submitted by **19 June 2026**. Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by above mentioned deadlines at the latest. Early registration is essential for the Secretariat and the host country to ensure the logistics and setting up of the online platform. **Online registration** must be completed through the [ICCAT meetings page](#) or the Registration form.

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**.