

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 21 April 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 02859/2026

SUBJECT: ALBACORE STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING
(Hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 22-25 June 2026)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the schedule of ICCAT meetings for 2026, I would like to inform you that the Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting is scheduled to be held at the ICCAT Secretariat offices in **Madrid, Spain on 22-25 June 2026**. I am pleased to provide herewith the Tentative agenda of the meeting as well as additional information for participants. 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, CET). 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 **10 June 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing participants with access to the meeting and to the [ICCAT Next Cloud folder](#) where the meeting documents and presentations will be made available. All participants must also register for the meeting by **10 June 2026**, using the [online registration form](#) which will soon be available on the [ICCAT 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 at least **45 days** in advance of the start of the meeting (**8 May 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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- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**

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

- **Observers**

Attachment: Tentative agenda and additional information for participants.



Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting
(Hybrid, Madrid, Spain, 22-25 June 2026)

Objectives

The main objective of the Albacore Species Group in 2026 is to conduct the stock assessment for South Atlantic albacore. In addition, the Group will review available information relevant to stock status, provide scientific advice, and develop recommendations on research, statistics, and management. The meeting will also include an update and discussion on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework for North Atlantic albacore.

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of updates to data inputs (limited to updates since the 2026 Data Preparatory Meeting)
3. South Atlantic assessment models
 - 3.1 JABBA
 - 3.1.1 Model settings
 - 3.1.2 Diagnostics
 - 3.1.3 Stock status results
 - 3.1.4 Projections
 - 3.2 Stock Synthesis
 - 3.2.1 Model settings
 - 3.2.2 Diagnostics
 - 3.2.3 Stock status results
 - 3.2.4 Projections
 - 3.3 Synthesis of South Atlantic assessment results
4. North Atlantic MSE (Management Strategy Evaluation)
 - 4.1 Overview of the MSE framework
 - 4.2 Operating models
 - 4.3 Candidate management procedures (CMPs)
 - 4.4 Performance indicators and trade-offs
 - 4.5 Exceptional Circumstances
5. Recommendations
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Review of the workplan
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure



Additional information for participants

1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held in person and online on 22-25 June 2026, at the ICCAT Secretariat, Calle Corazón de María 8, 7th floor, Madrid, Spain. The meeting hours will be from 9:00 to 18:00 (Madrid time, CET).

2. Contact information

Co-Chairs of the meeting:

[Haritz Arrizabalaga](#)

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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 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. In advance of submitting those, authors shall request the SCRS reference from the meeting Co-Chair, Haritz Arrizabalaga and the ICCAT Secretariat contact. After clearance from the meeting Co-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 and/or mauricio.ortiz@iccat.int by **12 June 2026**. Documents and presentations provided after the deadline will not be accepted unless previously authorized by the Co-Chair(s). 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. Provision of data

There are no further requests for data provision for the Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting.



6. Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the meeting by **10 June 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 ICCAT Secretariat by **10 June 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**.