

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, 1 June 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 04465/ 2026

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS TO THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4
(online, 7-8 July 2026)

Further to ICCAT Circular #03962/26 on 20 May 2026, it has been noted that there was a mismatch on the deadline for the submission of meeting documents set by the Panel 4 Chair, and that included in the Circular.

CPCs wishing to submit any documents for the meeting, are requested to submit these before **15 June 2026**, in order to ensure that they can be translated and published in advance of the start of the meeting. Any late submission of documents may preclude the ICCAT Secretariat from translating and publishing the documents on the meeting documents folder by 25 June 2026.

Any additional reports/background information which CPCs may consider of interest to the discussions, should also be provided by **15 June 2026** and will be posted once approved by the Chair, but will not be translated.

Please accept apologies for any inconvenience and 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
Second Vice Chair:	E. Penas Lado	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Chairs and Vice Chairs Panels 1-4		PWG Vice Chair:	M.D. King
SCRS Chair:	C. Brown	STACFAD Chair:	L. Marot
SCRS Vice Chair	L.G. Cardoso	STACFAD Vice Chair:	B. Chavarría

- **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**
- **Observers**

Attachments: Tentative Agenda (PA4_01/i2026) and Panel 4 Chair's letter (PA4_02/i2026).

Tentative Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish (Rec. 19-05)* regarding the management of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish, in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to grant provisional measures to developing coastal ICCAT CPCs for extenuating circumstances resulting from Recommendation 19-05 (Rec. 25-06)*
5. Review of the current status of the experimental use of traplines
 - 5.1 Reporting operational information on the use of traplines
 - 5.2 Early results from experimental use of traplines in ICCAT longline fisheries
6. Updates on North swordfish (SWO-N) Management Procedure (MP) and blue shark (BSH) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - 6.1 North Atlantic swordfish robustness testing for Climate Change effects and size limits
 - Clarification required on the Commission request for a “robustness test for minimum size limits”
 - Preliminary results from robustness testing
 - 6.2 Blue shark MSE
 - Technical progress to date
 - Working approach and next steps
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report and closure

Letter from the Chair to CPC Members of ICCAT Panel 4

Subject: Intersessional Meeting on 7-8 July 2026 – Agenda and preparations

Dear Panel 4 members,

As we approach our intersessional meeting scheduled for 7 and 8 July 2026, I would like to sincerely thank all the CPCs for their commitment, their proposals and their active participation in the 2025 meetings. Your contributions have enabled us to approve important proposals. In 2026, we must continue these efforts and explore several key issues in greater depth.

As you know, at its 29th regular meeting in 2025, the Commission adopted recommendations establishing our priorities. Our main task will be to review Recommendation 19-05 (Rec. 25-06) in order to improve the management of blue marlin, white marlin and roundscale spearfish. To this end, our discussions must take into account the specific situation of the Caribbean island developing States (IDSs) as well as other relevant developing coastal CPCs. We will also need to assess and, where necessary, correct the track record of implementation in relation to past measures, whilst identifying data gaps to improve data collection. Finally, it will be essential to clearly distinguish marlins caught as target species from those caught as bycatch by the various ICCAT fleets.

On this occasion, I warmly invite the IDSs from the Caribbean to participate actively and to present their specific situation to the Panel, including the elements set out in Recommendation 25-06. Dialogue between us is essential, which is why I encourage all CPC members of the Panel to submit their proposals, either in writing or by contacting me directly. My aim is to build with you a consensus document that we can adopt at our next annual meeting.

During our July meeting, we will also need to address other important issues. As regards the experimental longline, we will review the declarations received and analyse the initial operational results of this technique. Regarding the MSE process for blue shark, we will review technical progress, consult with the scientific group and draw up a workplan for the next steps. Finally, concerning the management procedure for northern swordfish, we will analyse robustness tests in relation to the effects of climate change and the rules on minimum catch size.

The items on the agenda are substantial and complex. To ensure that this meeting proceeds as smoothly as possible, CPCs wishing to submit comments, new proposals or any other meeting documents are requested to send them to the Secretariat by 15 June 2026. The Secretariat will then translate and publish these contributions in the CPC dossier by 25 June 2026 at the latest, to allow each delegation sufficient time to prepare.

Prior to the annual meeting, a new roadmap will be drawn up to structure our discussions and ensure concrete progress on all the Panel issues. I would like to thank you in advance for your attention and for the work you will undertake to ensure the success of this meeting.

Please accept, Panel 4 members, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amar OUCHELLI
Chair of Panel 4

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
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COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 20 May 2026

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 03962/ 2026

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 4 (*online, 7-8 July 2026*)

Following the adoption by the Commission of the ICCAT meetings scheduled for 2026, I would like to inform you that the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 has been scheduled for 7-8 July 2026 and has an online format. The meeting times will be 11:00 to 16:30 hours (Madrid time), with two 30-minute breaks at 12:30 and 14:30.

The Tentative Agenda and a Chair's letter (here attached) will be posted together with any other documents in the [Nextcloud meeting document folder](#). Please note that our mailing distribution list is limited. Therefore, I should like to ask you to circulate this announcement to potential delegates. This announcement will also be included in our [current meetings webpage](#). CPCs wishing to submit any documents for the meeting, are requested to submit these before **22 June 2026**, in order to ensure that they can be translated and published in advance of the start of the meeting. Any additional reports/background information which CPCs may consider of interest to the discussions, should also be provided by **22 June 2026** and will be posted once approved by the Chair, but will not be translated.

In order to organize the online meeting, which will be based on the ZOOM platform and include simultaneous interpretation, you are kindly requested to send to the ICCAT Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **24 June 2026**. Any late submission of the official delegation may cause a delay in providing participants access to the meeting. All participants must also register for the meeting by **24 June 2026**, using the [online registration form](#) which will soon be available on our [meetings webpage](#).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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