



Madrid – 31 May 2017

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3774/17

**SUBJECT: 2017 ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT**  
*(Madrid, Spain – 20 to 28 July 2017)*

I have the honor to inform you that the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment session will be held between 20-28 July 2017, in Madrid, Spain.

Attached please find the objectives, the tentative agenda of the meeting and other relevant information about the organization. I would appreciate it very much if you distribute this announcement to scientists who may contribute by participating in the meeting. This announcement will also be published on our [web site](#).

In order to have an estimation of the number of participants in advance of the session I would also appreciate if you could send to the Secretariat a list of delegates who will participate in the meeting by **7 July 2017**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman :	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
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**Attachment:** Objectives, Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.



**2017 ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT MEETING**  
*(Madrid, Spain - 20 to 28 July 2017)*

**Objectives**

In 2016 the SCRS elaborated a work plan for 2017 which included a stock assessment meeting to assess the stock status of the Western and Eastern and Mediterranean Atlantic bluefin tuna.

**Tentative Agenda**

1. Opening, adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of the scientific papers presented at the Working Group
3. Review and update data for stock assessment
  - 3.1 Biology
  - 3.2 Catch estimates
  - 3.3 Relative abundance estimates and CPUE
  - 3.4 Tagging
  - 3.5 Age composition (age-length keys)
  - 3.6 Stock composition (otolith microchemistry, genetics)
  - 3.7 Other data
3. Methods relevant to the stock assessment
  - 4.1 Methods – East
  - 4.2 Methods – West
  - 4.3 Other methods
5. Updating Stock status
  - 5.1 Stock status – East
  - 5.2 Stock status – West
  - 5.3 Stock status – alternative models
6. Projections
  - 6.1 Review of the Rebuilding Plans for the Atlantic bluefin tuna and 2016 SCRS advice
  - 6.2 Projections – East
  - 6.3 Projections – West
7. Recommendations
  - 7.1 Research and statistics – East
  - 7.2 Research and statistics – West
  - 7.3 Management – East, including advice on the odds of achieving the current Rebuilding Plan objectives without further adjustment
  - 7.4 Management – West, including advice on the odds of achieving the current Rebuilding Plan objectives without further adjustment
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and closure

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

### 1. Date and venue

The meeting will be held from 20 (Thursday) to 28 (Friday) July 2017 (registration starts at 08:30 am, 20 July). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat: c/Corazón de María 8, Madrid, Spain. For a map with the Secretariat's location and information about Madrid please [click here](#).

### 2. Contact information

Coordinator: Clay Porch (clay.porch@noaa.gov)  
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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos ([miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int))  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)  
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6th floor  
Madrid 28002, Spain  
Tel: +34 91 416 5600; Fax: +34 91 415 2612

### 3. Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, as no simultaneous translation can be provided. Scientific documents can be written in English, Spanish or French.

### 4. Call for scientific papers

Participants are encouraged to submit relevant scientific papers. In order to better organize the meetings, in 2014 the SCRS established deadlines for submitting documents, which were revised in 2015. These deadlines provide the rapporteurs with valuable information to better fit the meeting timetable as well as allow the Secretariat to make the documents available to participants in advance of the meeting. In 2015 the SCRS "proposed that a new deadline for the submission of SCRS documents should be implemented; these documents should be provided in their entirety at least one week before the meeting in which they are to be presented to facilitate their review by participating scientists prior to these meetings". As such the full documents for this meeting should be provided to [info@iccat.int](mailto:info@iccat.int) or [miguel.santos@iccat.int](mailto:miguel.santos@iccat.int) by **12 July 2017**. Authors are reminded to closely follow the Guidelines for Authors of Scientific Documents for the [ICCAT SCRS and Collective Volume Series](#). Furthermore, the original documents (text, tables and figures) should be prepared in WORD or compatible software.

### 5. Provision of data

At the 2017 Bluefin Tuna Data Preparatory meeting, the Group required data to be provided according to the following deadlines:

17 March 2017	Corrections to Task 1 and 2 through 2015. <i>Action: National Scientists</i>
20 June 2017	CPCs requested to submit 2016 Task I and Task II data. <i>Action: CPCs</i>
30 June 2017	Final 2016 Task I statistics available to SCRS BFT WG. <i>Action: Secretariat</i>

## **6. Funding**

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for a scientist from each ICCAT developing Contracting Party who can provide information relevant to the meeting objectives, particularly in reference to provision of data.

According with the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting, requests should be received **45 days** in advance, i.e. **5 June 2017**. Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

All the information related with the ICCAT special funds for participation in ICCAT meeting and capacity building is available in the [ICCAT web site](#). It is highly recommended to visit this web page 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.