



Madrid, 13 June 2017

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4157 / 2017

SUBJECT: 2017 TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
(Madrid, Spain – 4-8 September 2017)

I have the honor to inform you that an Intersessional Meeting of the Tropical Tuna Species Group will be held on 4-8 September 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 could 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 **18 August 2017**.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.




Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

DISTRIBUTION:

– **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chairman :	M. Tsamenyi	COC Chairman:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair	F. Donatella
Second Vice Chair:	R. Delgado	STACFAD Chair	S. Lapointe
SCRS Chairman:	D. Die		

– **Head Delegates/Head Scientists**

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

Attachment: Tentative Agenda, Information for participants.

2017 TROPICAL TUNA SPECIES GROUP INTERSESSIONAL MEETING
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Objectives

In 2017, the Tropical Tuna Species Group identified a number of research lines in order to improve future stock monitoring and management advice. Likewise, substantial progress must be made on the development of the catch statistics and the MSE framework.

In 2017, the Tropical Tuna Species Group plans to review all the activities conducted within the Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP), the information collected and the plans for future tagging and capacity building initiatives.

In addition, in 2017, the Tropical Tuna Species Group has to discuss and draft a number of replies to the Commission, related to Rec. 16-01 and the 2016 FAD Working Group recommendations.

Meeting Tentative Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
2. Review of fishery statistics
 - 2.1 Task I (catches) data
 - 2.2 Task II (catch-effort and size samples) data
 - 2.3 Improvement on ICCAT Task I and II data (including Ghanaian statistics and *faux poisson*)
3. Review of new scientific documents for the species
4. Review of AOTTP data and programme activities
 - 4.1 Review data collected and provide feedback
 - 4.2 Review current assumptions regarding growth, mortality, stock structure etc. with regard to new information obtained from the AOTTP programme
5. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - 5.1 Review existing operating models and provide feedback on potential tropical tuna MSE
 - 5.2 Develop a programme to implement and fund MSE for tropical tunas for a minimum of three years
6. Responses to the Commission
7. Recommendations
8. Other matters
 - 8.1 Workplan
 - 8.2 Update species Executive Summaries
9. Adoption of the report and closure

Additional information for participants

1 Date and venue

4 (Monday) to 8 September (Friday) 2017. (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 4 September). Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00.

The meeting will be held at the ICCAT Secretariat, Madrid (Spain).

2 Contact information

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Secretariat Contact: Miguel Neves dos Santos (miguel.santos@iccat.int)
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Madrid 28002, Spain
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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 or miguel.santos@iccat.int by **28 August 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

The Group developed a workplan for 2017 that includes evaluating the efficacy of the moratorium. This included two subcomponents, namely: (i) evaluate how changes to the size structure of the catch affect recovery timelines for bigeye; and, (ii) analyze corrected historical data to advise appropriate time/area moratorium for FAD closure. CPC scientists are asked to provide any information that may facilitate these evaluations prior to the meeting so that they can be compiled and reviewed by the Group.

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 to 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. **21 July 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 on 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.