

**REPORT OF THE 2020 MEETING OF THE
PORT INSPECTION EXPERT GROUP FOR CAPACITY AND ASSISTANCE**
(Madrid, Spain, 6-7 February 2020)

1. Opening of the Meeting and logistical arrangements

The meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat offices in Madrid, Spain, from 6-7 February 2020. The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, welcomed the participants to the meeting. Mr. Todd Dubois (United States) chaired the meeting, welcomed the meeting participants (“the Group”), and requested the Group’s concurrence to serve as both the Chairman of the meeting as well as the CPC representative from the United States to which there was no objection. The meeting Agenda was adopted with the understanding that the election of a new Chair would be considered under Item 8, “Other Matters” and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2**. Dr. Katheryn Patterson (United States) was nominated from the floor and served as Rapporteur for the meeting

2. Review of progress since previous meeting

The Rapporteur provided an overview of the last meeting’s proceedings and the Chair provided updates on completed actions since the last meeting. With respect to the ICCAT Training Curriculum, the Call for Tender for the ICCAT specific curriculum was advertised and the Tender was awarded to MRAG Americas. MRAG then developed a draft training manual, fish identification guides and an instructor’s timetable. The Draft Manual was translated into the three ICCAT languages and distributed to the Group for review.

The Group was asked to report out on capacity building and technical assistance activities, either in support of or received by the CPCs that had requested assistance, since the last meeting. The EU noted that technical assistance was provided under the PESCAO project to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and their Member States¹. While the in-person assessments for both CPCs identified under “Group A” for receiving assistance (Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire) had not yet been conducted, Nigeria did receive a 3-day inspector training under the EU funded PESCAO Project in October 2019. It was highlighted that more specialized ICCAT training was still needed in Nigeria, and there is a proposal for Nigeria to receive an additional training in 2020 under the PESCAO project.

Since the last PIEG meeting, an additional ICCAT Port Inspection Self Pre-Assessment for capacity building was received from Suriname. It was also noted that two CPCs expressed interest in receiving technical assistance at the Commission meeting; however, those CPCs had not yet submitted their Pre-Assessment forms.

3. Review of Draft Manual submitted in response to tender award

Comments on the Draft Manual received from the Group prior to the meeting were consolidated by the Chair into one working draft for the Group to review during the meeting. The Chair requested that the Group initially provide broad comments on the curriculum, and then the Group reviewed the document by section so that everyone had an opportunity to provide input and feedback, acknowledging that not all CPCs may have had the opportunity to review the materials prior to the meeting. The Group were in favor of this approach, and proceeded with reviewing the Draft Manual.

¹ FCWC: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo; SRFC: Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra-Leone.

4. Review and discussion of proposed changes to Draft Manual to be transmitted to service provider

The Group began their assessment by commending MRAG for the work and acknowledged the substantial amount of information the Draft contained. The Group also identified that while beneficial, the Draft Manual served more as a general introductory Port Inspection training manual and lacked sufficient ICCAT specific training information for inspectors, which was the intent. The charge in the Tender was for an ICCAT specific module to be developed that could then be added onto existing fisheries inspector training programs. The Group also noted that the information in the Draft Manual was too broad and suggested that MRAG should combine the content into two aspects – one aspect that covered the more general how to conduct a fisheries inspection and another that focused specifically on ICCAT recommendations. This way, the Draft Manual could serve as a full training program and contain the requested ICCAT specific module as well.

The Group also noted that the Draft Manual did not follow the ToR of the Tender nor the logical sequence of an inspection as the manual switched from pre-inspection procedures to conducting an inspection, and then back to preparatory information – as an example. The Group also highlighted that the Draft Manual contained significant repetition in the content and that the manual should be shortened by referencing the ICCAT website for background information (over 50 pages of content), referencing ICCAT recommendations as footnotes and moving information such as methodologies, checklists and standard operating procedures to Annexes. This reorganization would make the manual simpler and more operationally straight forward. The Group also strongly emphasized that the Draft Manual lacked important information on conducting risk analyses and requested that clear methodologies to assess risk be added, as part of the pre-inspection phase.

The Group also raised the important need that the manual should be written from the inspector's perspective. The Group noted that the current Draft was not practical from the standpoint of an inspector as the majority of the Draft read from the perspective of a CPC or Party.

The following comments will be provided to MRAG America in the hopes that the third party can revise, shorten to be more concise (and remove repetition) and add significant detail specific to an ICCAT inspection:

Key Points to be provided to MRAG:

- The organization and structure of the manual needs to be revised to follow the order of operations (e.g., preparation, inspection and post-inspection activities) and the ToR;
- The intent was to have an ICCAT-specific training module created vs. a general inspection overview;
- The manual needs to be revised and written from the inspector's perspective;
- The manual needs to be more concise, in particular background information should be reduced by referencing relevant ICCAT websites;
- Repetition should be minimized once the manual is reorganized/reordered topically;
- Where appropriate, tables and SOPs should be moved and included as annexes;
- Footnotes should be used for referencing ICCAT Recommendations (and for easy update);
- Change "must" and "shall" to "should" where appropriate to be non-compulsory (unless in fact it is an ICCAT requirement) and be understood as a recommended "best practices";
- Add a section on risk-based methodologies in the preparatory phase (e.g., ISO standards) and specifically with respect for scoring risk analysis;
- French translation issues need to be fixed as noted (e.g., "boarding" and "follow-up").

Species ID Guides

- Ensure species ID guides are correct and complete (there are internal MRAG comments noting that links should be checked and that some of the forms may need updating);
- Species ID guides should include ALL relevant ICCAT species (e.g., other tuna species).

Proposed Training Timetable

- Noting comments in the timetable regarding additional time for some modules and the need for a non-multiple choice exam as the assessment.

Once these key points are addressed, the Group emphasized the importance of having a two-step approach for the revision process. The Group requests that first, MRAG should address the concerns regarding the structure and organization of the manual before significant revisions to the content are made. The Group asks that MRAG first provide a revised table of contents to the Group, so that it may be able to review the manual's new structure and make any final recommendations. The Group agreed that they could review the new structure in one-weeks' time. Once the Group approves the new structure, then MRAG will have one month to make the requested content changes.

5. Consideration of opportunities and partners to deliver training utilizing the new module

The Group highlighted that once the ICCAT specific training module is finalized, the Secretariat should send out a formal request to partners to include the module in their existing training programs. The Group identified the potential for partnerships with the EU funded PESCAO Project, FAO, International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network – who has a vetted list of MCS experts, Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea, Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, as well as the United States under its Port Inspector Training Program which already includes a block of instruction on relevant RFMOs. It was also highlighted that all CPCs should be involved in this process, not just those represented in the Group. The Group emphasized the importance of maximizing and streamlining synergies between the work of the Group and others.

6. Determination of next steps in the assessment of needs and review of training requests

The Group reviewed the one submitted pre-assessment since the last meeting and determined that Suriname would fall into Group C, noting the order of the pre-assessments previously received and evaluated. It was also reiterated that all requesting CPCs will receive technical assistance and the Group only outlines the order in which the technical assistance is received.

The Group revisited the process for reviewing CPC pre-assessments and agreed that this process could occur intersessionally. The Group requested that the Secretariat advise the Group of any new received pre-assessments on a quarterly basis so that the Group could review any received pre-assessments both electronically and intersessionally.

In terms of completing the in-country Assessments for “Group A” CPCs, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire – there were discussions on whether in-country assessments were needed. The Group reflected on the agreed to procedure from the 2018 Meeting of the PIEG for Capacity Building and Assistance, and agreed to not deviate with the adopted methodology. The Group emphasized that this process does not inhibit work under other existing projects from continuing as the ICCAT Training Manual is being developed and finalized. It was agreed that the second phase in-country assessment for Côte d'Ivoire would serve as a pilot and the Group agreed to review the process for conducting assessments at the next meeting to allow flexibility for the requesting CPCs.

Moving forward, Senegal with support from the Secretariat (e.g., travel funds) and with consideration of an additional consultant could conduct Côte d'Ivoire's in-country assessment prior to the next ICCAT Annual Meeting. It was also discussed that this assessment could be conducted in conjunction with an anticipated national training in Côte d'Ivoire under the PESCAO project, ideally.

7. Other matters

The Group reviewed ICCAT Circular 9135/19 regarding ICCAT's potential response to the forthcoming FAO questionnaire related to Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) effectiveness. Noting that many of the elements identified in the circular should simply require a fairly straightforward comparison of the provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* [Rec. 18-09] to the provisions of the PSMA. Given the relevant expertise of the Group, it should be noted that the Group could have useful and relevant input for this response.

Noting some concerns of overlap with individual CPCs and delegation processes, the Group was encouraged to provide feedback to the Chair in support of the pending questionnaire and that the Chair would consolidate any input from the Group and send to the Secretariat as input from the Group for consideration.

Lastly, the Group, in accordance with the ToRs, called for nominations and selected Alexandre Kempff of the EU as the new Chair of the Group. To ensure a timely transition of the work of this meeting, the new Chair will commence his position on 1 March 2020. The Group thanked the outgoing Chair for his excellent work.

8. Adoption of report and adjournment

The rapporteur reviewed the main points of the Draft report with the Group; however, the short duration of the Working Group meeting did not allow for the adoption of the report. The Draft report will be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, and once the report has been translated, it will be sent to all members of the Group for comment and approval before submission of a final report to the Commission prior to the Annual Meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Review of progress since previous meeting
4. Review of Draft Manual submitted in response to tender award
5. Review and discussion of proposed changes to Draft Manual to be transmitted to service provider
6. Consideration of opportunities and partners to deliver training utilizing the new Module
7. Determination of next steps in the assessment of needs and review of training requests
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and adjournment

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